Los Angeles Times

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California left in a state of grief

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

MOURNERS TAKE part Tuesday in a vigil for victims of the shooting at Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park. For many, the Asian-on-Asian violence feels like too much to bear, especially with the two most recent shootings occurring around Lunar New Year.

Asian Americans anguish over mass shootings tied to their own community.

By Anh Do, Jeong Park, Debbie Truong, Summer Lin and Cindy Chang

Their motives for mass murder appeared to be different — workplace enmity, law enforcement officials said, or personal resentment, or a political conflict in a homeland across the ocean.

But they were all Asian men of retirement age, who within the past year have been accused of expressing their bitterness by spraying fellow Asians with bullets, in the very places where Asian immigrants go to escape isolation.

Even as they grieve the victims, Asian Americans across the country are grappling with a new reality. Someone who looks like their grandfather, who traveled a similar immigrant path, is suspected of committing a singularly American act — opening fire on a group of innocent people, at a Taiwanese church last May, at a ballroom dance studio in Monterey Park on Saturday and in the coastal

[See **Grief,** A8]

Experts dismiss copycat theories

Despite similarities in age and race, alleged shooters appear to be unrelated outliers.

By Melissa Healy

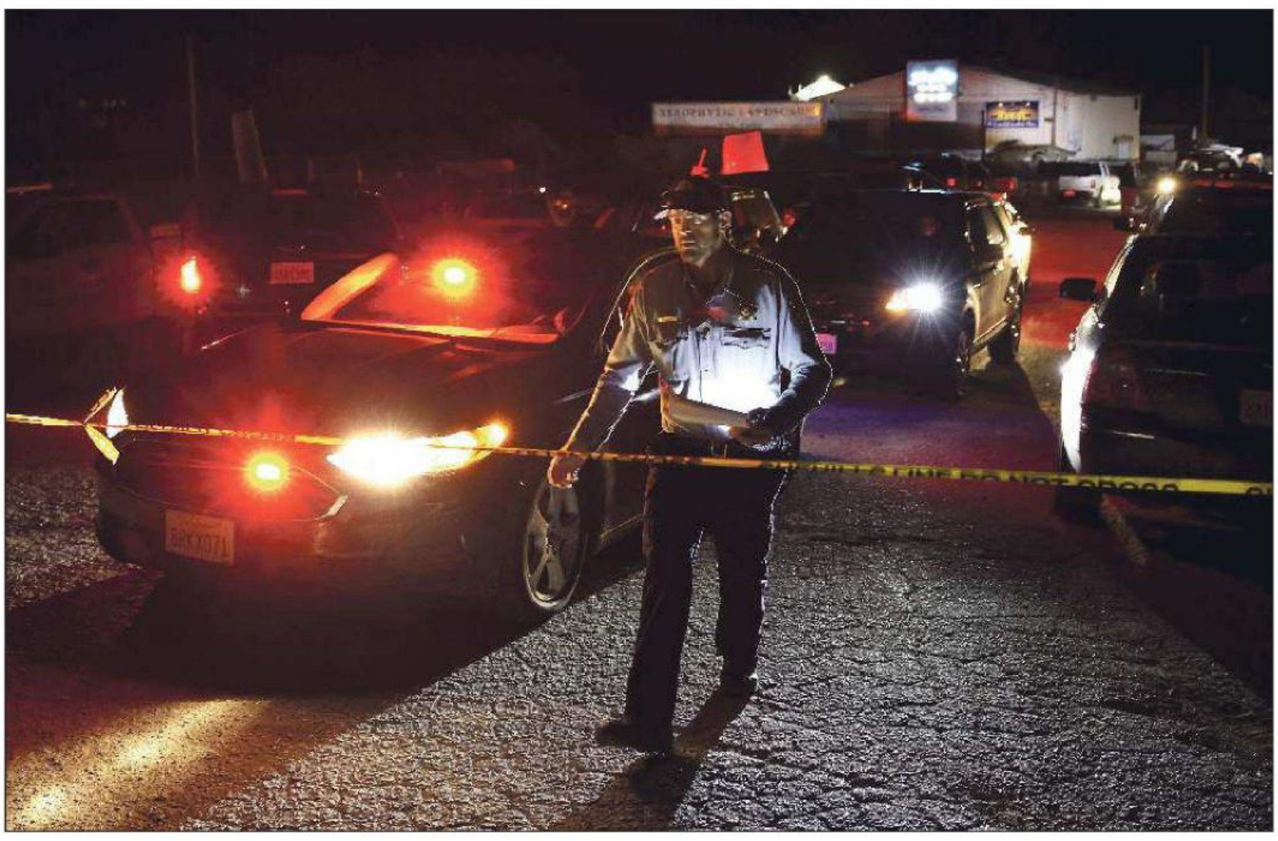
Do a pair of back-to-back mass shootings in California suggest that older men will be the next generation of mass murderers?

Don't count on it, experts say. The 72-year-old who killed 11 people in Monterey Park and the 66-year-old who's alleged to have murdered seven near Half Moon Bay may have committed the crimes within 48 hours and 400 miles of each other. But they are likely to remain outliers in a mounting tally of younger perpetrators.

The reason: Although older men are quick to catch contagious diseases, they seem virtually immune to the kinds of contagion that prompt violent displays of mimicry.

"We don't see many 60- and 70-year-olds committing mass homicides, and when they do it's usually a murder-suicide within a family," said Jack McDevitt, a criminologist at Boston's Northeastern University.

[See **Outliers,** A8]



JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images

LAW ENFORCEMENT officers investigate shootings at two farms near Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County.

Farmworker suspect 'snapped'

Chunli Zhao, 66, is accused of killing seven colleagues near Half Moon Bay.

By Salvador Hernandez, Susanne Rust, Alexandra E. Petri and Terry Castleman

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — The 66-year-old farmworker accused of fatally shooting seven of his co-workers and wounding another "snapped" because of a still-unknown grievance against some of the people among whom he had lived and worked for years, law enforcement officials said Tuesday.

Chunli Zhao remained in jail a day after he allegedly opened fire on workers at two farms near Half Moon Bay, a coastal agricultural community south of San Francisco.

"The only known connection between the victims and the suspect is that they may have been co-workers," San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said at a news conference Tuesday. "All the evidence we have points to this being [an] instance of workplace violence."

Corpus added in an interview with The Times: "There was something that happened where he snapped."

Zhao had worked and lived for at least three years at Mountain Mushroom Farm on state Route 92, the scene of Monday's first shooting, a Half Moon Bay

[See **Half Moon Bay,** A9]

Gunman warning delayed for hours

Questions arise over time it took to say suspect was at large. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Doesn't feel real, loved ones say

Many share memories after the dance hall attack. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

A community's added grief

Erika Smith on the accused. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

What's next for gun laws in state?

California has nation's strictest rules, but new bills aim to bolster current list of limits.

By Hannah Wiley

After a deadly wave of mass shootings in the United States last year — including one in Buffalo, N.Y., and another at a school in Uvalde, Texas — that collectively killed 31, California's Democratic-controlled Legislature responded by quickly passing more than a dozen laws meant to prevent gun violence in the Golden State.

Now, with California reeling from one mass shooting after another that claimed at least 24 lives in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay and a Central Valley farming town, lawmakers are asking themselves once again what more they can do to stem the violence.

California already ranks among the states with the most restrictive gun control laws. And by some measures they are working: The state has among the lowest rates of gun deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a

[See **Guns,** A9]

Big cuts may lead to a shifting of tech talent

Amid layoffs, workers reassess their futures. Some may take their skills to other sectors.

By Brian Contreras and Jaimie Ding

When Quinn pivoted from the video game industry to a corporate tech gig in 2019, job security was a big part of the reason why.

The gaming world was "feast and famine," hiring and firing people all the time, said Quinn, who asked that his last name be withheld to avoid damaging future employment prospects. A more traditional software role — working on learning and development at a customer service company — seemed like a safer bet.

Quinn, now 28, wasn't alone. For years, a job at a big Silicon Valley company was one of the more plum gigs an American could find. Even after all the early-2010s rhetoric about making the world a better place started to ring hollow in the wake of scandals at Facebook, Uber and other companies, a killer combo of high pay, ample perks, flexible management and collegiate San Francisco Bay Area campuses made for a lifestyle that enticed many early-career self-starters.

The pandemic seemed to

[See **Tech workers,** A11]

U.S. is expected to send tanks

An announcement is planned on giving M1 Abrams to Ukraine, officials say. **WORLD, A3**

Pence had documents too

Classified papers were found at the former vice president's home in Indiana. **NATION, A4**

U.S., 8 states sue Google over ads

Alleging a digital-market monopoly, they seek an ad-tech unit breakup. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather
Sunny.
L.A. Basin: 68/46. **B6**

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OSCAR NOMINATIONS

Finally, a blockbuster year

'Top Gun,' 'Avatar' rain billions on best picture category

By Josh Rottenberg

If you were hoping to attract the largest possible viewership to the Academy Awards, it's hard to think of many bigger names you could leverage than Tom Cruise, James Cameron and Elvis.

We'll soon find out whether even that titanic trio can do the job.

The 10 best picture Oscar nominees unveiled by the motion picture academy early Tuesday morning span a wide range of styles and scales, from critical darlings that barely made a dent on the box office — like "Tár" and "All Quiet on the Western Front" — to bona fide blockbusters that drew huge audiences around the world, including "Top Gun: Maverick," "Avatar: The Way of Water" and "Elvis."

Frustrated by years of steadily declining ratings for the show long touted as Hollywood's biggest night, leaders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences are hoping the inclusion of those box office hits will help goose interest in this year's telecast, scheduled for March 12. Last year's show drew an average of 15.4 million viewers, up 56% from the previous year but still the second-lowest viewership in

[See **Nominations,** A6]

The big suprises

Lead actress nominees Andrea Riseborough and Ana de Armas shake things up. **CALENDAR, E1**

Slowed to a trickle

It's a down year for the streaming services. Only Netflix gets a best picture nod. **CALENDAR, E1**

Before he was king

Austin Butler thanks a "clairvoyant" ex for believing he could play Elvis. **CALENDAR, E2**

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PERSPECTIVES

A vaccine pricing outrage

MICHAEL HILTZIK

Stéphane Bancel, the chief executive of drug company Moderna, could barely restrain his pride in issuing his annual letter to shareholders on Jan. 3.

"Since the beginning, it has been our mission to deliver on the promise of mRNA technology for patients," Bancel wrote, referring to the vaccines in the company's product pipeline that use short pieces of genetic code to help cells build immunity.

"And we delivered at speed with our mRNA vaccine against COVID-19," he continued. "We are harnessing the power of mRNA to create a new category of medicines and a company that maximizes its impact on human health."

A couple of pertinent points were missing from Bancel's 2,700 words of self-congratulation. One was the contribution of the federal government to the company's success.

That included a research grant of almost $1 billion from the government's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, or BARDA, through 2020, plus a $1.5-billion federal purchase guarantee in 2020 for COVID vaccines before testing was even completed — a deal that materially reduced Moderna's financial risks in developing the vaccine.

Nor does it count the millions, possibly billions, in federally funded basic research at academic institutions and government laboratories in mRNA technology — the foundation of the product developed by Moderna.

Also glossed over was Moderna's intention to raise the price of its COVID vaccine from the estimated $20.69 per dose paid by the federal government through December 2022 (for 1.2 billion doses of COVID vaccines, including Moderna's product and a similar mRNA formulation produced by Pfizer), to as much as $130 per dose.

Pfizer, which did not receive federal research funding but did obtain a government purchase guarantee, has also announced a price increase to as much as $130 per dose.

Pfizer's vaccine also derives from basic government-funded research; indeed, on its website the company acknowledges the foundational work on mRNA technology by Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania, research that was funded in part by the National Institutes of Health.

ELI HARTMAN Associated Press

MODERNA and Pfizer each plan to raise the price of their COVID-19 vaccines to as much as $130 per dose, which inevitably will lead to lower vaccination rates.

Both companies have justified the planned price hikes in part by citing the savings in healthcare costs the vaccines have produced.

In an email, a Pfizer spokesman told me that its vaccine and other therapies have "saved hundreds of thousands of lives [and] tens of billions of dollars in health care costs." Pfizer "has priced the vaccine to ensure the price is consistent with the value delivered," the email said.

Moderna makes a similar point. "Moderna is committed to pricing that reflects the value that COVID-19 vaccines bring to patients, healthcare systems, and society," company spokesman Christopher Ridley said by email.

It's impossible to overstate the moral depravity of this argument. The companies are saying, in essence, that they deserve a cut of the savings in lives and money attributable to their products, and they'll decide the size of that cut for themselves — independent of considerations such as the cost of developing and manufacturing the drugs or the effect that higher prices will have on patients' access.

No industry other than pharmaceuticals asserts that its prices should be based on the higher costs of alternatives, but it's a familiar factor in drug pricing. Gilead Sciences, for instance, set the price of Sovaldi and Harvoni, its hepatitis C treatments, above $80,000 for a 12-week course based on the drugs' "value premium" — the higher cost of alternative treatments.

After a U.S. Senate committee issued a blistering report about Gilead's pricing strategy, the company stated that the drugs were "priced in line with the previous standards of care" and that the prices "are less than the cost of prior regimens, even though our therapies have significantly higher cure rates and very few side effects."

The price increases of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines almost inevitably will translate into lower vaccination rates, even as executives at both vaccine companies assert that the price increases will be invisible to most Americans.

"Anyone with commercial or government insurance who is eligible to be vaccinated should be able to access the vaccine without any out-of-pocket payments," Pfizer executive Angela Lukin told Wall Street analysts on a conference call Oct. 20, when the company announced its proposed list price of $110 to $130 per dose.

That's highly misleading, however. Underinsured or uninsured Americans could be charged the full price, which would put the vaccine beyond their ability to pay. To the extent insurers or Medicare and Medicaid would shoulder most of the cost for their enrollees, it could be reflected in higher premiums.

Make no mistake: This is a public health issue. The government's COVID vaccination program prevented more than 18.5 million excess hospitalizations and 3.2 million excess deaths, according to research by the Commonwealth Fund.

"Without vaccination, there would have been nearly 120 million more COVID-19 infections," the fund estimated.

The list-price increases are only part of the story. The other side of the coin is the profit margin Moderna and Pfizer expect to see from the vaccines. According to an analysis by Oxfam, the mRNA vaccines could be produced for as little as $1.18 to $2.85 per dose, meaning that even at the government price the companies were collecting enormous profits.

There would appear to be plenty of headroom for Moderna and Pfizer to profit from the vaccines even at lower prices. Pfizer has projected annual sales of its vaccine at $34 billion and Moderna at $18 billion to $19 billion. Those estimates were based on 2022 sales, before price increases take effect. Government authorities have started to talk about a regime of annual COVID vaccine boosters, similar to flu vaccines, implying a steady stream of revenue for the companies for years to come.

The price increases reflect what Moderna and Pfizer both refer to as the transition to commercial marketing of the vaccines. That's necessary because the federal government has run out of money to buy doses and distribute them for free. Last year, President Biden asked Congress for $3.9 billion "to help ensure ready access to vaccinations, testing, treatment and operational support" for Americans. He didn't get it.

The effect of federal funding for Moderna has been stupendous — and a large proportion of that gain has flowed directly to shareholders. According to the company's most recent quarterly report, the company spent $2.1 billion on research and development in the first nine months of 2022. But it spent $2.9 billion in the same period on stock buybacks, which pump up the value of its stock.

Those repurchases were part of $6 billion in stock buybacks authorized last year by the Moderna board, of which more than $3 billion remains available. Basic math tells you that had Moderna not received its more than $1 billion in R&D assistance from the government, it would have had at least that much less to upstream to shareholders.

As I've written before, it's the cowardice of political leaders and government regulators that allows drug firms such as Moderna and Pfizer to dictate higher prices for products developed in part with government funding.

The government arguably has authority over pricing and distribution of products developed with federal funding, such as the COVID vaccines. The key factor is the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980, which allowed private companies to commercialize inventions that grew out of federally funded research, but it reserved certain rights for the government to protect taxpayers' investments.

Chief among them are "march-in rights." These allow the government to require that a federally funded drug be licensed to other manufacturers, or to offer a license itself to alternative drugmakers to ensure that the drug is widely accessible. Those rights can be exercised if the government concludes that a manufacturer hasn't taken sufficient steps to make a product publicly available or hasn't brought it out on "terms that are reasonable."

The government has never exercised its march-in rights, though it has occasionally threatened to do so to extract concessions from manufacturers. But as drug prices skyrocket, pressure on federal authorities to take action is intensifying.

Prostate cancer patients, for instance, have been pressing the Department of Health and Human Services to take action on Xtandi, a wonder drug for the disease that was developed at UCLA with substantial funding from the Pentagon and the National Institutes of Health.

The average wholesale price of Xtandi, for which Pfizer holds a manufacturing license, comes to $189,800 a year. (UCLA had collected more than $520 million in royalties from the drug when it sold the rights in 2016.) To date, Health and Human Services has failed even to hold a hearing on a year-old petition by prostate cancer patients aimed at bringing the drug price down by exercising march-in rights.

The COVID vaccines could be another test case. Few drugs on the market today can match their capacity to advance public health and few may be as sensitive to the level of price increases planned by Moderna and Pfizer.

This is a subject on which the federal government cannot and should not remain silent.

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How our political system lets mass shootings continue

MARK Z. BARABAK

On a sunny July afternoon, James Oliver Huberty drove his black Mercury Marquis to a McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, near the border with Mexico, bearing a small arsenal and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

He opened fire on cooks and counter workers, on diners and employees hiding in a storage area, on a mother and her infant, on three boys bicycling through the parking lot.

Twenty-one people died in what, at the time, was the worst mass shooting by a lone gunman in U.S. history. I covered the murders for United Press International. Today, the 1984 San Ysidro McDonald's massacre, as it's come to be known, barely makes the Top 10.

In the sanguinary years since, there have been more than 130 mass shootings, according to a database kept by the news site Mother Jones that counts incidents in which four or more people were killed.

Those are decades in which the nation's gun laws have generally grown more permissive, weapons more readily available and lawmakers in Washington notably less responsive to the majority of Americans who favor stricter safety regulations, such as a ban on assault-type weapons and high-capacity magazines.

I covered the San Ysidro massacre that left 21 dead at a McDonald's — the worst mass shooting by a lone gunman in 1984. Today, it barely makes the Top 10.

It's hardly a coincidence.

There have been mass shootings at military bases and gay nightclubs, churches and restaurants, office parks and post offices, college campuses and elementary schools. At a dance hall Saturday night in Monterey Park and, less than 48 hours later, at a nursery and farm business near Half Moon Bay.

It is almost easier, in fact, to name the places where mass shootings haven't taken place, though doing so may offer incentive and amount to a dare to some sick individual.

"Tragedy upon tragedy," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who was at a hospital meeting with victims of the Monterey Park rampage when he was informed of Monday's shootings. One gut punch followed by another.

Unimaginable, said officials in Half Moon Bay, a small oceanside oasis about 30 miles south of San Francisco.

But it's not, really. We swaddle ourselves in a kind of mental bubble wrap, rationalizing that such an atrocity could never happen *here*. But we've long since learned that it can happen anywhere, at any time. None of us are ever really safe the moment we set foot in public.

News accounts in recent days have pointed out that California has some of the stiffest gun laws in the nation, the implication being they have somehow failed to work. That's not true.

California's rate of gun deaths has notably declined as the state has passed safety legislation, while rates have soared in states such as Texas and Florida, which have moved the opposite way in a seeming competition over which place can more be promiscuous in its fetishizing of firearms.

But California is not, as some might prefer, an island. An assault-style weapon that is outlawed in California is obtainable just a quick jaunt away, across the border at a gun show in Arizona or Nevada.

The solution is uniform federal gun safety laws, but that, of course, requires bold action by Congress.

Which seems highly unlikely.

After some particularly awful mass shootings last summer, all lawmakers could manage was some tinkering — expanding background checks for gun buyers between ages 18 and 21, nudging states to pass so-called red-flag laws to keep firearms away from the dangerous and deranged.

It marked the first major gun safety legislation passed by Congress in nearly 30 years, and its meagerness spoke to the fecklessness of the moment.

Polls show that most Americans favor tougher gun laws and considerable majorities support commonsense measures such as creating a federal database to track firearm sales and preventing those with mental illnesses from buying guns.

And yet Congress is unmoved, in good part because the pro-gun lobby routinely outmuscles advocates of gun safety. People who oppose gun controls are often deeply, singularly and unceasingly involved in the issue. People who wish to end gun violence may be passionate as well, but they tend to be more sporadic in their political engagement and limited in their attention spans.

Robert Spitzer, a professor of political science at State University of New York at Cortland, summed up the dynamic in a 2018 interview, many tragedies ago.

"It's only when the mass shooting occurs that the public pays real attention," said Spitzer, who has written several books on gun policy. "But the sentiment doesn't last long. Most people turn their attention back to other things, as does the media, and soon it's back to business as usual."

At the same time, lawmakers have generally become less reliant on broad support and more beholden to their political bases, as gerrymandering — the purposeful drawing of congressional boundaries to advantage one party over the other — has taken away much of the competition between parties.

There are 82 swing congressional districts, according to the Cook Political Report with Amy Walter, a nonpartisan guide to campaigns and elections. That's half the number that existed in 1999.

"The smaller number of swing districts means fewer members need to strike balances and support compromises," wrote the report's founder, Charlie Cook. Indeed, he said, "There are more Republican members of Congress in danger of losing a primary than a general election — hence, they are constantly looking over right shoulders."

And there, with ballot at the ready, are some of the fiercest opponents of gun safety legislation. Even as the death toll mounts, they are unyielding in their opposition.

For some, a certain number of lost lives are the cost of freedom.

For most, that's too high a price. But until the political dynamic shifts — until gerrymandering stops and voting against gun control becomes a liability and not a reason lawmakers stay in office — it's a price our society and countless innocents will continue to pay.

FOR THE RECORD

"Real Housewives": In the Jan. 22 Calendar section, an article on the "Real Housewives" TV franchise said Kristen Warner is an associate professor at the University of Alabama. Warner is at Cornell University. It also listed Racquel Gates as an associate professor at the CUNY College of Staten Island. Gates is at Columbia University.

U.S. is expected to send tanks to Ukraine

Biden administration's planned M1 Abrams announcement would send a message to a reluctant Germany.

By Tracy Wilkinson

WASHINGTON — Putting aside resistance from the Pentagon and elsewhere, the Biden administration is planning to announce a decision to send M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, officials said Tuesday.

The tanks, long sought by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, would provide the heaviest weaponry yet among the billions of dollars in military aid Washington has sent to Ukraine to help repel a brutal Russian invasion.

But given the sophistication, complexity and firepower of the tanks, it could be months or even more than a year before they reach the battlefield and Ukrainian fighters are trained to use the equipment.

Christian Murcock Gazette

GIVEN the complexity of the M1 Abrams tanks, it could be months before they reach the battlefield.

Pentagon spokesman Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, in a nod to objections from Defense Department officials, said the Abrams tank was a major asset in combat, but not one that is easy to operate.

The tank "is a very capable battlefield platform," he said Tuesday, adding, "It's also a very complex capability."

"And so, like anything that we're providing to Ukraine, we want to ensure that they have the ability to maintain it, sustain it, to train on it."

He emphasized that he was not announcing a decision to supply the tanks "at this time," an official position repeated at the White House and State Department.

As recently as last week, Colin Kahl, the undersecretary for Defense policy, said the Pentagon was not prepared to send Abrams tanks to Ukraine, saying that in addition to the difficulty maneuvering them, the machines have gas-guzzling jet engines that are expensive to fuel.

Pentagon leadership, he told reporters, "has been very focused on … not providing the Ukrainians systems they can't repair, they can't sustain, and that they, over the long term, can't afford, because it's not helpful."

But U.S. officials are also keen to send a political message to Germany, which has been reluctant to provide its own Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine unless the U.S. also offers tanks.

Germany may be softening its position, born of decades of an official post-World War II tradition of pacifism. And Poland, for example, has Leopard tanks it would like to ship to Ukraine, but has sought permission from Germany to do so. In recent days, however, Poland has suggested it would send the tanks with or without German authorization. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said Sunday that her country would no longer object.

The Leopard pales in comparison to the Abrams, U.S. officials say, but would be easier to operate initially on European terrain, where it has long-term experience.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, whose aides say has been deeply involved in finding ways to boost Ukraine, met early Tuesday with representatives of the Group of 7 of the world's most advanced economies to discuss Russian destruction of Ukraine's electrical grid, heating, water and other energy sources.

They did not publicly mention tanks or other weapons, and State Department spokesman Ned Price declined to confirm a decision on the Abrams.

"Needless to say, this is an ongoing conversation, and it is a conversation that allows us to be responsive to the needs of our Ukrainian partners," Price said in a briefing with reporters when asked whether a decision had been made.

He said the amount of military aid provided by the U.S. and Europe since Russia invaded nearly a year ago was "staggering." The Pentagon and other countries' defense operations have gradually ratcheted up the kind of weapon sent, from shoulder-fired antitank Javelin missiles to, most recently, the sophisticated Patriot air defense system.

But tanks were a new line to cross, with some U.S. officials worried at the sight — if the Ukrainians were ill-prepared — of destroyed and disabled Abrams crippled in the battlefield and being hauled away by the Russians. And other officials predicted, accurately, that Moscow would be furious at what it would label another "escalation" by the West.

Yet they have also been confronted by increasingly dire conditions in Ukraine, where Russian forces have bombarded apartment complexes and civilian infrastructure as a winter freeze settles in.

In another development in Ukraine on Tuesday, at least nine senior government officials, including a deputy defense minister, were fired or forced to resign as part of a corruption scandal. Zelensky was elected in 2019 in a landslide on pledges to eradicate rampant corruption that has long plagued Ukraine.

Some of the allegations have to do with mishandled wartime supplies, Ukrainian officials said, but U.S. officials said they were not yet aware of specific malfeasance involving U.S.-sourced material.

Corruption has had a sometimes curious role in Ukrainian history. When he was vice president, Biden pressured the Ukrainian government to fire a prosecutor whom the European Union accused of refusing to investigate corruption cases. Later, then-President Trump and his associates accused the Zelensky government of widespread corruption when it refused to help him dig up dirt on the Biden family.

Currently, some Republican members of Congress, along with several Democrats, have demanded better accountability and transparency with U.S. aid to Ukraine. The Pentagon has insisted that checks and controls are already in place.

Ardern's 'joy' as prime minister: the people

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Jacinda Ardern made her final public appearance as New Zealand's prime minister Tuesday, saying the thing she would miss most was the people, because they had been the "joy of the job."

Ardern, who has been a global icon of the left, shocked the nation Thursday when she said she was resigning as leader after more than five years because she had nothing left in the tank. Labor Party lawmakers voted unanimously Sunday for Chris Hipkins to take over as prime minister, and he will be sworn in Wednesday.

Ardern's final act as leader was to join Hipkins and other lawmakers attending celebrations at the Ratana meeting grounds, the home of an Indigenous Maori religious movement.

Ardern told reporters she'd been friends with Hipkins for nearly 20 years and spent two hours with him on the drive to the meeting grounds. She said the only real advice she could offer was, "You do you."

"This is for him now. It's for him to carve out his own space to be his own kind of leader," Ardern said. "Actually, there's no advice I can really impart. I can share information, I can share experiences, but this is now for him."

Ardern also addressed the wide discussion that has been going on since her announcement about the vitriolic and misogynistic attacks on her on social media — something she has said did not contribute to her decision to step down.

"Whilst there has been a bit of commentary in the aftermath of my departure, I would hate for anyone to view my departure as a negative commentary on New Zealand," Ardern said. "I have experienced such love, compassion, empathy and kindness when I've been in this job. That has been my predominant experience."

Hipkins told reporters that the leadership transition was "bittersweet."

"Obviously, I'm really honored to be taking on the role, but as is well-known, Jacinda's a very good friend of mine," he said.

At the meeting grounds, Ardern was greeted with embraces and songs. She told those attending she would leave the job with a greater love and affection for New Zealand and its people than when she started.

"I didn't think that was possible," she said.

Ardern plans to stay on as a member of Parliament until April to avoid triggering a special election ahead of the nation's general election in October.

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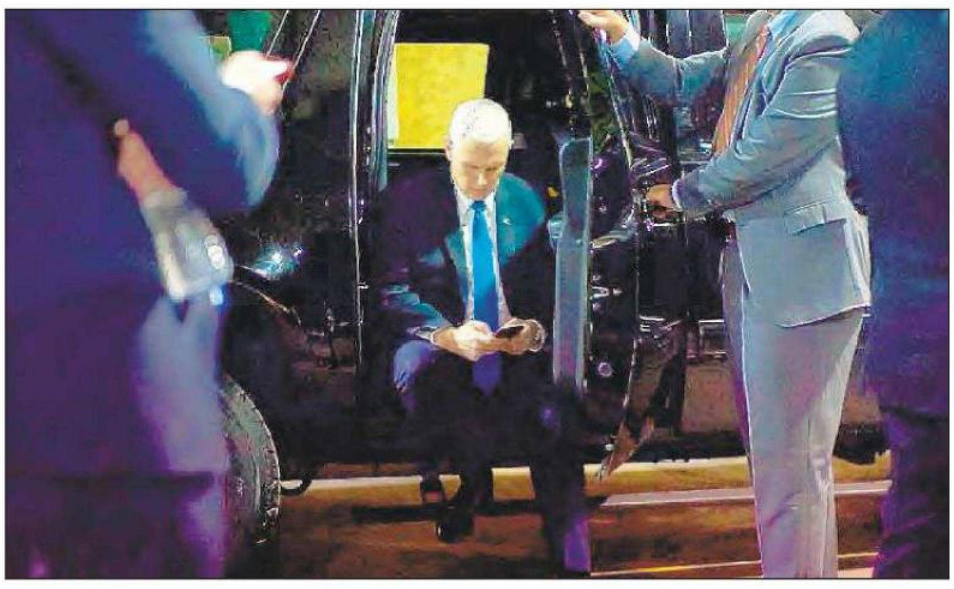
Pence had classified documents at home

Concern grows about mishandling of records as ex-vice president, Biden and Trump are all under scrutiny.

By Jill Colvin



Associated Press

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT Mike Pence, shown on Jan. 6, 2021, had a "small number" of documents at his Indiana home that have been taken into FBI custody.

NEW YORK — Documents with classified markings were discovered last week at former Vice President Mike Pence's Indiana residence, his lawyer says — the latest in a string of recoveries from the homes of current and former U.S. officials of papers meant to be treated with the utmost sensitivity.

"A small number of documents" that were taken into FBI custody Thursday had been "inadvertently boxed and transported" to Pence's home at the end of the last administration, his lawyer, Greg Jacob, wrote in a letter to the National Archives that was shared with the Associated Press.

Jacob said Pence had been "unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence" until a search last week. Pence "understands the high importance of protecting sensitive and classified information," Jacob said, and is ready to cooperate with "any appropriate inquiry."

The revelation came as the Department of Justice is investigating the discovery of documents with classification markings at the Delaware home and a former Washington office of President Biden, as well as at the Florida estate of former President Trump.

The newest discovery thrusts Pence, who previously said he had followed stringent protocols regarding classified documents, into the debate over the handling of such materials at the highest ranks of government.

Trump is under criminal investigation after roughly 300 documents with classified markings, including at the top-secret level, were discovered at his Mar-a-Lago estate. Officials are trying to determine whether he or anyone else should be charged with illegal possession of those records or with trying to obstruct the months-long investigation.

Biden is also subject to a special counsel investigation after classified documents from his time in the Senate and in the Obama administration were found at his properties.

Trump, who denies any wrongdoing, reacted to the new development with a post on his social media site: "Mike Pence is an innocent man. He never did anything knowingly dishonest in his life. Leave him alone!!!"

Trump is a declared presidential candidate for 2024, and Pence has been exploring a campaign that would put him in direct competition with his former boss. Biden has indicated that he will seek reelection.

Pence's case could bolster the arguments of Trump and Biden, who have sought to downplay the significance of the discoveries at their homes. The presence of secret documents at all three men's residences highlights the federal government's unwieldy system for storing and protecting the millions of classified documents it produces each year.

Jacob said in his letter that Pence had "engaged outside counsel, with experience in handling classified documents," to review records found at his home Jan. 16 "out of an abundance of caution" amid the uproar over the discovery of documents at Biden's home.

Jacob said the Pence documents with classification markings were immediately secured in a locked safe. FBI agents visited the residence Thursday at 9:30 p.m. to collect the documents, according to a follow-up letter from Jacob dated Jan. 22. Pence was in Washington for an event at the time.

A total of four boxes containing copies of administration papers — two with "a small number" of papers bearing classified markings and two containing "courtesy copies of vice presidential papers" — were discovered, according to the letter. Arrangements were made to deliver those boxes to the National Archives on Monday.

Congressional leaders were notified of the discovery Tuesday by Pence's team.

The boxes, according to a Pence aide, were not kept in a secure location but were taped shut and were not believed to have been opened since they were packed. The former vice president's staff searched the Washington office of his advocacy group last week and did not discover additional documents, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the search.

Material in the boxes came mostly from Pence's Naval Observatory vice presidential residence, which would not have been packed by the vice president's office staff or its lawyers. Other material came from a West Wing office drawer, the person said.

The National Archives declined to comment on the discovery. A Justice Department spokesman also declined to comment, and a lawyer for Pence did not immediately respond to an email seeking elaboration.

Pence told the AP in August that he did not believe he had taken any classified information with him when he left office. Asked directly if he had retained such documentation, he said, "No, not to my knowledge."

In an interview this month with Fox Business, Pence described a "very formal process" used by his office to handle classified information, as well as the steps taken by his lawyers to ensure that none was taken with him.

"Before we left the White House, the attorneys on my staff went through all the documents at both the White House and our offices there and at the vice president's residence to ensure that any documents that needed to be turned over to the National Archives, including classified documents, were turned over," Pence said.

On Capitol Hill, members of the Senate Intelligence Committee expressed incredulity over the mishandling of documents.

Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas noted that locked bags are used to move classified documents out of committee offices.

"In my book, it's never permissible to take classified documents outside of a secure facility" except by a secure means of transport between such facilities, he said.

House Intelligence Chairman Michael R. Turner, an Ohio Republican, said he planned to request a formal intelligence review and damage assessment.

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, a senior member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, pointed to broader concerns with the classification system, saying it is "at the point where there is so much out there, it is hard to determine what ought to be classified, and then it is hard to determine what should be declassified."

Colvin writes for the Associated Press.

McCarthy kicks 2 Democrats off key committee

As promised, House speaker has blocked California Reps. Schiff and Swalwell from the intelligence panel.

By Nolan D. McCaskill

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday blocked fellow California Reps. Adam B. Schiff and Eric Swalwell from continuing to serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The denial follows through on a pledge by McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) to remove Schiff (D-Burbank) and Swalwell (D-Dublin) from the panel in retaliation for a move by Democrats — and some Republicans — in the last Congress to strip GOP Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and Paul Gosar of Arizona of their committee assignments.

"I appreciate the loyalty you have to your Democrat colleagues," McCarthy wrote in a letter to Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), who requested over the weekend that Schiff and Swalwell retain their seats on the panel. "But I cannot put partisan loyalty ahead of national security."

McCarthy described his rejection of the California Democrats as a step toward maintaining "a standard worthy of this committee's responsibilities." The panel provides oversight of the U.S. Intelligence Community and the Military Intelligence Program.

McCarthy claimed the panel was misused with Democrats in the majority during the last four years, "severely" undermining national security.

Schiff and Swalwell were quick to react. Schiff called the move "petty, political payback for investigating Donald Trump" and warned in a fundraising email that it's also "a dangerous effort to go after anyone who holds [Republicans] accountable" and risks turning the committee "into a political plaything for their right-wing supporters."

"This rejection is based on a claim that the Washington Post independent-fact checker gave 4 Pinocchios," Swalwell tweeted. "[GOP] Speaker Boehner and Ryan, both Gang of 8 members, appointed me to Intel with access to the same facts McCarthy is distorting. He can keep me off Intel, but I'm not going away."

McCarthy has also vowed to remove Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) from the House Foreign Affairs Committee, but it's unclear whether he has the votes to do so.

Under House rules, the speaker has unilateral authority to keep Schiff and Swalwell off the high-profile select intelligence panel. Removing Omar from a standing committee will require a full floor vote.

At least two Republicans — Reps. Victoria Spartz of Indiana and Nancy Mace of South Carolina — have said they won't vote to remove Omar from the panel. With a razor-thin majority, Republicans can't afford more than four defections if they wish to boot Omar from the committee.

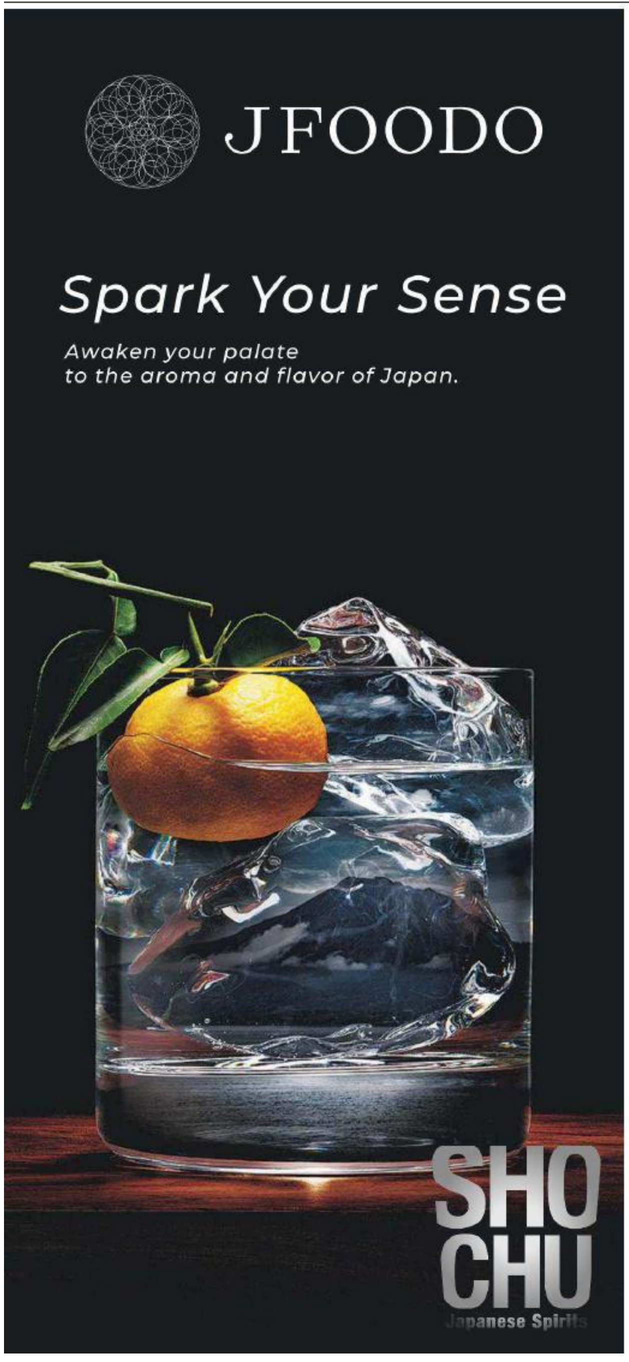
Over the weekend, Jeffries urged McCarthy "to honor past practice of the House of Representatives and our mutual interest in working together for the good of the American people" by accepting his recommendations for Schiff to serve as the panel's ranking member and Swalwell to retain his membership. Jeffries said the removal of Greene and Gosar from their committee posts was no "precedent or justification" for removing Schiff and Swalwell.

Greene was removed in February 2021 following a backlash over comments she made before taking office expressing support for baseless conspiracy theories and appearing to endorse violence against Democratic lawmakers. She later distanced herself from the comments.

Gosar faced similar punishment in November 2021 after posting, then deleting, a cartoon video with his face superimposed on a character who kills someone with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's (D-N.Y.) face and wields swords against President Biden.

McCarthy said removing Schiff, the lead manager during the first impeachment of President Trump, is justified because Schiff "lied" to the public about details related to a whistleblower report that triggered the investigation and dismissed as a Russian ploy emails found on a laptop allegedly owned by Hunter Biden. McCarthy has argued that Swalwell couldn't get a security clearance in the private sector following a report that he was targeted by a suspected Chinese spy with whom he later cut ties.

In separate letters to the Steering and Policy Committee earlier this month, Schiff and Swalwell maintained that McCarthy has no basis for removing any Democrats from committees and said he shouldn't do so based on "smears and falsehoods" or "fabricated stories or political revenge."



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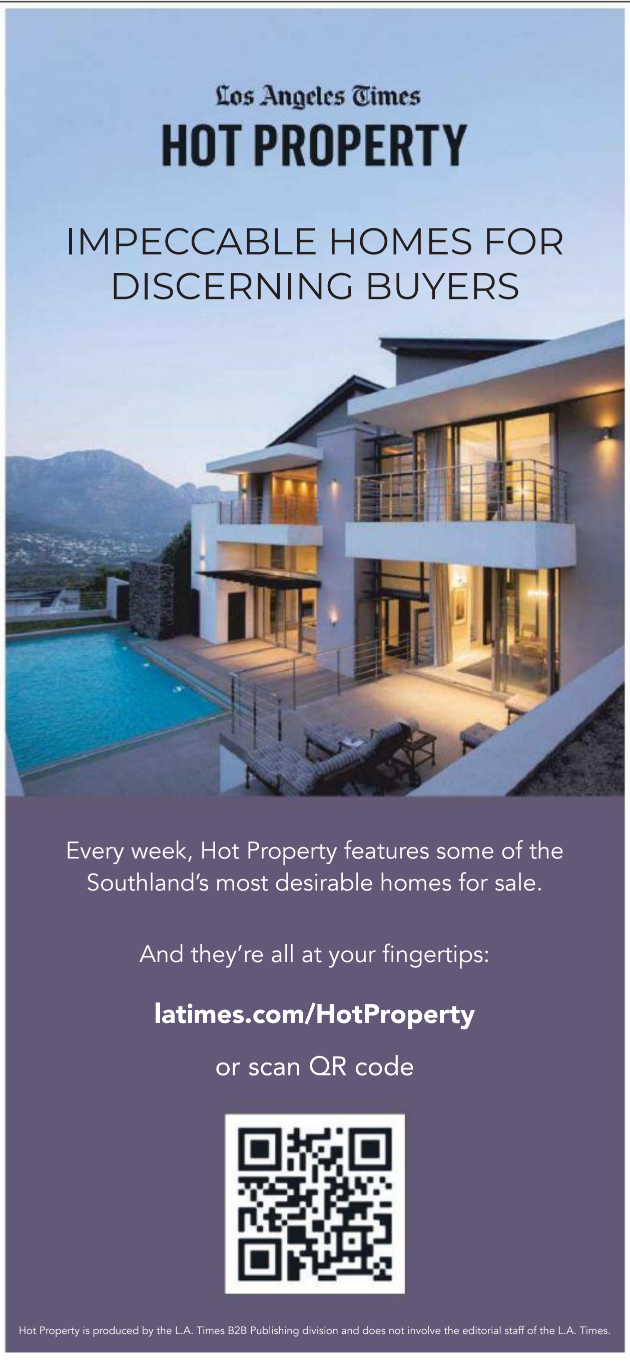

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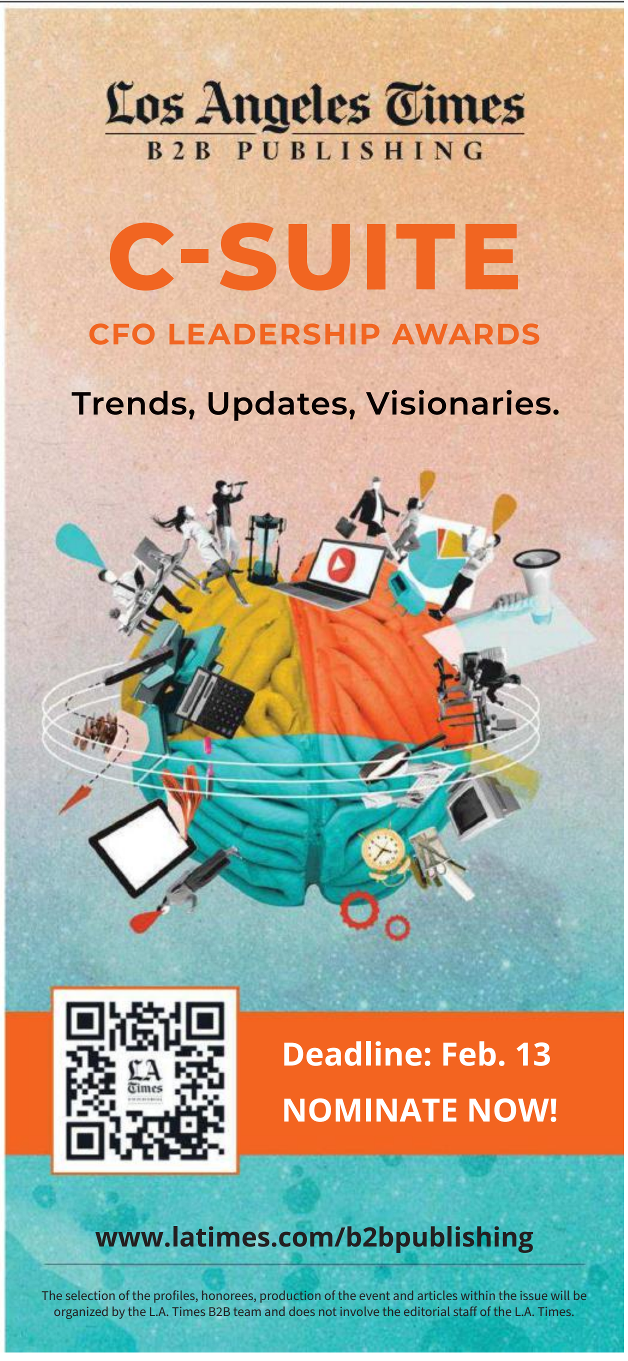

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Voters go maverick, pick blockbusters

[**Nominations,** from A1]
Oscars history, and far below the more than 40 million who tuned in just nine years ago.

In a promising sign for the academy, this year marks the first time in Oscar history that more than one best picture contender has grossed more than $1 billion globally. The biggest hit of 2022, "Top Gun: Maverick," earned nearly $1.5 billion globally last summer, helping pull the film business out of its pandemic slump. Released in December, "Avatar: The Way of Water" has taken in nearly $2 billion around the world to date. (The last best picture nominee to cross the billion-dollar mark was 2019's "Joker.")

Two other best picture nominees this year, director Baz Luhrmann's glitzy biopic "Elvis" and the gonzo sleeper sci-fi-action hit "Everything Everywhere All at Once," have each taken in more than $100 million globally — a benchmark only one contender, "Dune," surpassed among last year's field and none managed to clear in 2021 at the height of the pandemic.

Alongside these relative box office behemoths, a number of other contenders have struggled to reach a wide audience, as older moviegoers have remained slow to return to theaters.

The darkly comic frenemies story "The Banshees of Inisherin" has earned $27 million globally, while Steven Spielberg's autobiographical "The Fabelmans" and the capitalist satire "Triangle of Sadness" each took in roughly $20 million around the world, with the remaining nominees lagging further behind.

Still, even without other potential high-earning contenders like "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" and "RRR," which both failed to make the cut, the cumulative gross of this year's best picture field far exceeds any in recent years. Indeed, the $718-million domestic haul of "Top Gun: Maverick" alone nearly equals the worldwide grosses of the best picture nominees from the last two years put together.

In decades past, the tastes of audiences and Oscar voters tended to be in relatively close alignment, with hugely popular hits from "Gone With the Wind" and "The Sound of Music" to "The Godfather" and "Braveheart" earning the best picture prize. In 1997, the Oscars drew its biggest audience ever, with 55.3 million viewers tuning in to watch Cameron's "Titanic" — then the biggest box office hit of all time — win 11 Academy Awards, including best picture.

But over the years, the gulf between what the audience rewards at the box office and what Oscar voters reward with trophies has grown wider, creating an existential conundrum for the motion picture academy.

It's been nearly 20 years since the biggest box office hit of the year was also crowned best picture. "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" won the top prize at the 2004 Oscars, having brought in nearly $1.15 billion worldwide.

Faced with an ever more fragmented entertainment landscape, academy leaders have made various attempts to bring more broadly popular movies into the Oscar telecast, some more successful than others.

In 2009, following an outcry after the superhero smash "The Dark Knight" failed to land a best picture nomination, the academy expanded the best picture category to as many as 10 films in an effort to ensure more broadly appealing films would make the cut. Since then, only two comic-book movies have earned best picture nominations: "Black Panther" and "Joker."

In 2018, with the best picture race still largely dominated by art-house fare, producer Bill Mechanic blasted the academy for its elitism in a blistering letter announcing his resignation from the organization's board of governors. "Over the past decade we have nominated so many smaller independent films that the Oscars feel like they should be handed out in a tent," he wrote. "Big is not inherently bad and small is not inherently good."

Later that year, the academy announced the creation of a new award to honor "outstanding achievement in popular film," only to scrap the idea less than a month later amid criticism that it represented an ill-conceived act of pandering.

Last year, in another gambit aimed at luring casual movie fans, the telecast introduced the Oscars' first-ever (and perhaps last-ever) fan-favorite award, voted on via Twitter. The subject of widespread derision in the run-up to the show, the top vote getter in the end was Netflix's critically derided zombie heist film "Army of the Dead," which was boosted to victory by director Zack Snyder's rabid army of online devotees.

It remains to be seen whether academy voters will reward one of this year's blockbusters with its top prize or whether the group will favor an arty David over a more populist Goliath.

One need only look to Cameron's own Oscars history for a note of caution.

The last time Cameron was in the best picture race was in 2010, when the first "Avatar" earned nine Oscar nominations on its way to becoming the highest-grossing film of all time.

The ultimate winner that year? Kathryn Bigelow's gritty Iraq war drama "The Hurt Locker," which earned $17 million domestically, the lowest haul at the time for any best picture winner in modern history.

JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

ACTORS Riz Ahmed and Allison Williams read the nominations for the 95th Academy Awards. Among the titles announced Tuesday for best picture were two that have posted box-office sales in the billions.

Paramount Pictures

"TOP GUN: Maverick," led by Tom Cruise, has earned nearly $1.5 billion globally. It's up for best picture alongside "Avatar: The Way of Water," with nearly $2 billion, and two others with more than $100 million.

Authors accuse DeSantis of political censorship

Florida governor defends rejecting Black studies course, and targets push back.

BY TERRY SPENCER AND ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has reiterated the state's rejection of a proposed nationwide advanced African American studies course, saying it pushes a political agenda — something three authors cited in the state's criticism accused him of doing in return.

DeSantis said Monday his administration rejected the College Board's Advanced Placement African American Studies course because "we want education, not indoctrination." It was revealed last week that the Florida Department of Education recently told the College Board it would bar the course unless changes are made.

The state then issued a chart late Friday that says the course promotes the idea that modern American society oppresses Black people, other minorities and women, includes a chapter on "Black Queer Studies" that the administration finds inappropriate, and uses articles by critics of capitalism.

The governor said the course violates legislation dubbed the "Stop WOKE Act" he signed last year. It bars instruction that defines people as necessarily oppressed or privileged based on their race. At least some writers the course cites believe modern U.S. society endorses white supremacy while oppressing racial minorities, gay people and women.

"This course on Black history, what's one of the lessons about? Queer theory. Now who would say that an important part of Black history is queer theory? That is somebody pushing an agenda," said DeSantis, a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2024.

JOHN LOCHER Associated Press

FLORIDA Gov. Ron DeSantis said a rejected African American studies course was "indoctrination."

Florida House Democratic Leader Fentrice Driskell called the rejection of the course "cowardly" and said it "sends a clear message that Black Americans' history does not count in Florida."

"Imagine how boring and closed-minded we'd all be if we only met ideas that we agreed with," she said.

The College Board, after a decade of development, is testing the African American studies course at 60 high schools nationwide. No school or state would be required to offer it after its scheduled rollout.

The College Board issued a statement last week saying it encourages feedback and will consider changes.

The state, in its Friday chart, criticized five living authors. The Associated Press emailed them and three responded.

— The section on "Black Queer Studies" includes readings by Roderick Ferguson, a Yale University professor of women's, gender and sexuality studies. The state says he "exclaims, 'We have to encourage and develop practices whereby queerness isn't a surrender to the status quo of race, class, gender and sexuality.' "

Ferguson said that quote comes from an interview he did about his book "One-Dimensional Queer." The book, he said, is a discussion of "employment discrimination, laws against LGBTQ+ people, the suppression of progressive movements in the U.S., police violence against minority communities, restrictions on immigration (and) anti-Black racism."

"These are real histories. The arguments about them are based on scholarly investigation and research — as are the arguments from the other scholars on this list," Ferguson said. "Unfortunately, we are in a moment in which right-wing forces are mobilizing to suppress the free discussion of those realities. If we need an example of that mobilization, we could probably just turn to the forces that came together to reject this course."

— The state calls out the course for including "Black Study, Black Struggle," a 2016 piece by UCLA history professor Robin D.G. Kelley, saying he "argues that activism, rather than the university system, is the catalyst for social transformation." Kelley called that description oversimplified.

He said his piece challenges student activists to move their efforts beyond campus and decries racism, inequality, capitalism, militarism and police brutality. But he also said activists must love everyone, "even those who may once have been our oppressors," and read and understand Western literature if they are to criticize it.

The state also points out that Kelley wrote the 1990 book "Hammer and Hoe," a history of communism in Alabama during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"It won several awards and accolades, including from a few conservative anti-Communist historians, because it is based on thorough research — something DeSantis's people are not familiar with," Kelley wrote.

— The state criticized the inclusion of a section about "Movement for Black Lives," a coalition of more than 50 groups including Black Lives Matter and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. The state says the group wants to abolish prisons and that it alleges there is a "war" against gay and transgender Black people.

The state criticizes the section's inclusion of a reading by Leslie Kay Jones, an assistant sociology professor at Rutgers University. It cites her quote, "Black people produce an unquantifiable amount of content for the same social media corporations that reproduce the white supremacist superstructure that suppresses us."

Jones said she found no indication that the Movement for Black Lives has ever advocated for prison abolition.

She also said she was surprised DeSantis' staff attacked her for criticizing social media companies, since he does the same.

Spencer and Izaguirre write for the Associated Press.

S. Dakota pharmacists get abortion pill warning

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIERRE, S.D. — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, along with the state's Republican attorney general, said Tuesday that the state will prosecute pharmacists who dispense abortion-inducing pills following a recent Food and Drug Administration rule change that broadens access to the pills.

The Republican governor and South Dakota Atty. Gen. Marty Jackley released a letter to South Dakota pharmacists saying they are "subject to felony prosecution" if they procure or dispense abortion-inducing drugs. The state bans all abortions except to save the life of the pregnant person. The U.S. Supreme Court last year stripped away women's constitutional protections for abortion when it overturned the landmark 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling.

"South Dakota will continue to enforce all laws including those that respect and protect the lives of the unborn," Noem and Jackley said in the letter.

The FDA earlier this month formally updated labeling for abortion pills to allow many more retail pharmacies to dispense them, so long as they complete a certification process.

The change could expand access at online pharmacies. People can get a prescription via telehealth consultation with a health professional and then receive the pills through the mail, where permitted by law.

Still, in states like South Dakota, the rule change's impact has been blunted by laws limiting abortion broadly and the pills specifically. Legal experts foresee years of court battles over access to the pills as abortion rights proponents bring test cases to challenge state restrictions.

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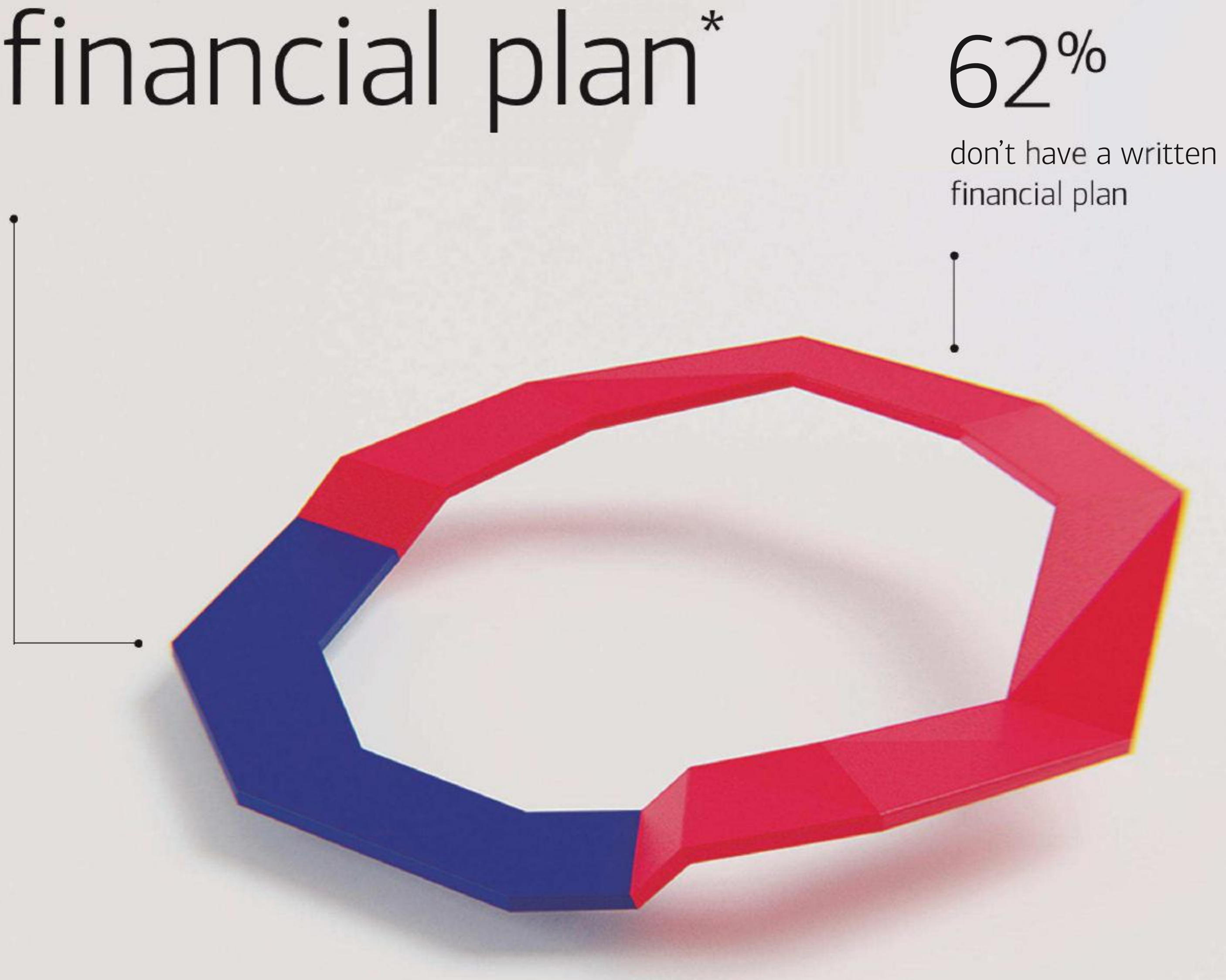

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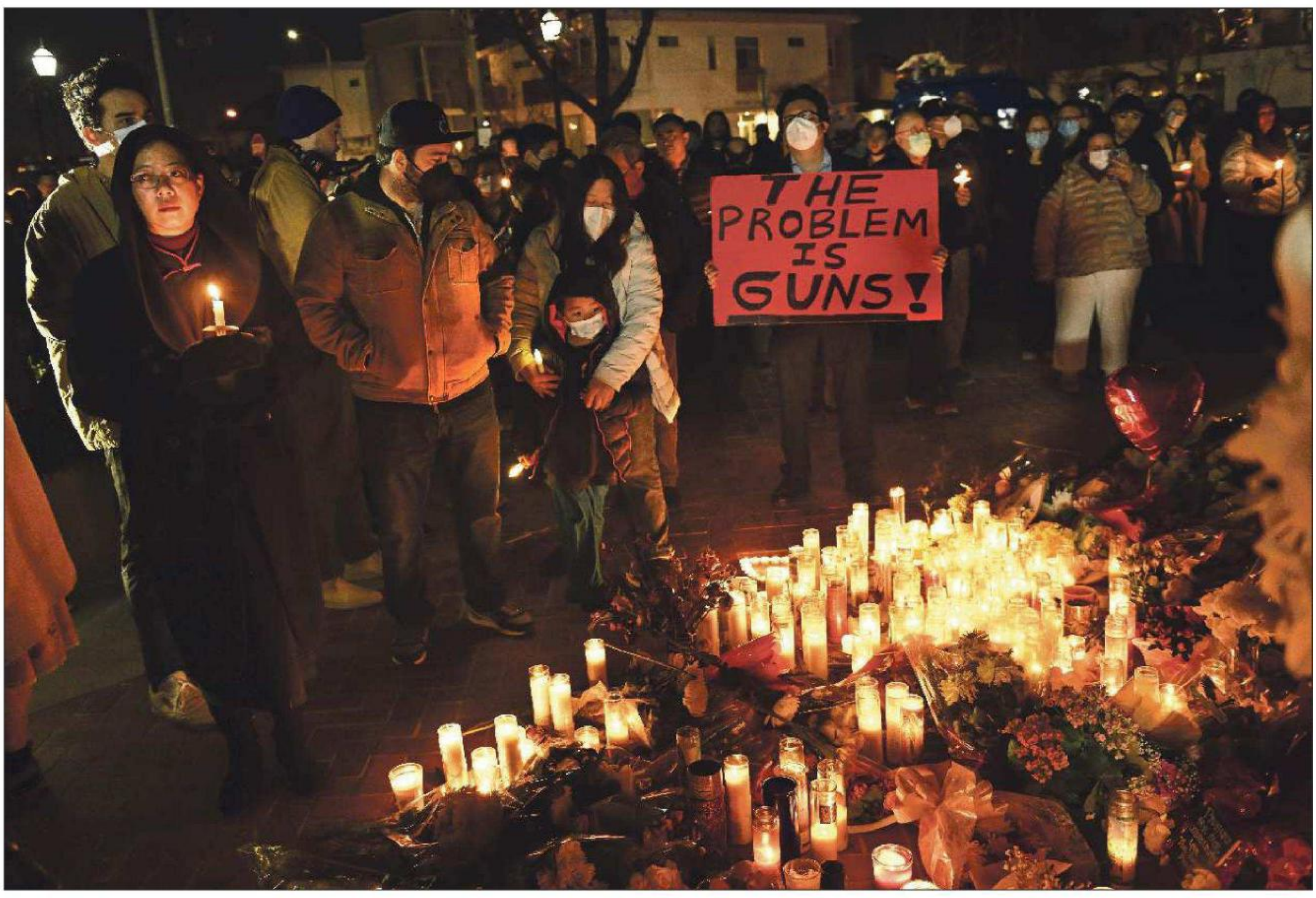
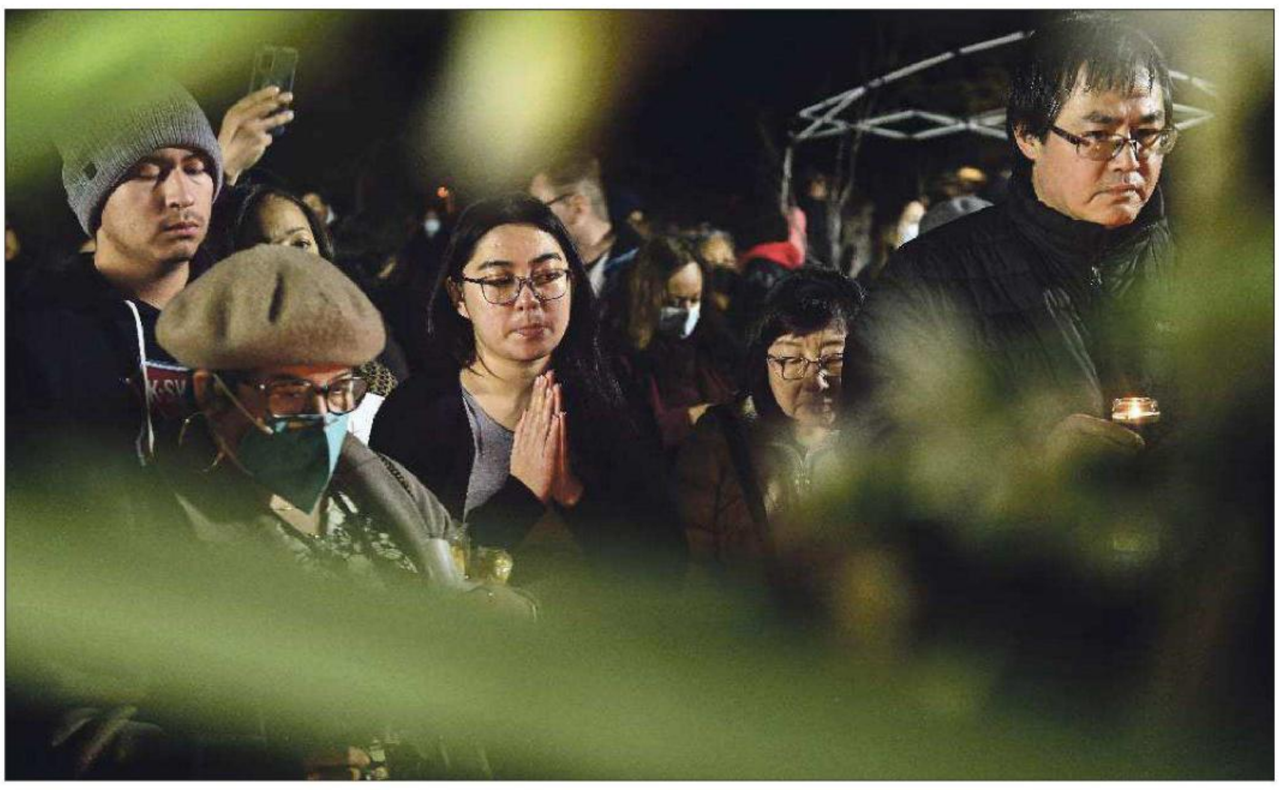
Asians' grief grows worse


THE PROBLEM IS GUNS!

Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

MOURNERS AT a Tuesday vigil for Monterey Park victims. "Know that you are not alone in your pain, your fears, your anger, your urge to disconnect, your need to be with your people," said an online message from 18 Million Rising, an Asian American advocacy group.



MOURNERS IN Monterey Park on Tuesday. Law enforcement sources believe the accused shooter, Huu Can Tran, 72, frequented the dance studio and are looking into whether he was driven by jealousy.

[**Grief,** from A1]
agricultural community of Half Moon Bay on Monday.

For a community already reeling from a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic — sometimes with senior citizens as victims — the Asian-on-Asian violence feels like too much to bear, especially with the two most recent shootings occurring around the Lunar New Year holiday.

Only three men are accused of committing these horrific acts, but the isolation and mental health struggles that may have sent them spiraling are common threads for some older Asian immigrants, who may have experienced war back home and who have experienced the dislocation of settling in a foreign country.

Among friends and family on social media, sons and daughters are anguishing over whether they were doing enough for elders who have been through so much but often do not have the vocabulary to open up about problems — even in their native language.

"They don't speak English. Their kids don't speak their mother tongue. Older generation cannot connect to younger generation. That is a picture of the typical Asian American working class family, especially East Asian," said Sonny Le of Oakland, who has worked as a medical interpreter for Vietnamese and Chinese Vietnamese senior citizens for more than 20 years. "Stoic. Bottling it up. It's a way to cover for our shortcomings, our inability to articulate what we are thinking or feeling."

Some groups have organized virtual grief circles because of the recent massacres for people to be together, if only online.

"Know that you are not alone in your pain, your fears, your anger, your urge to disconnect, your need to be with your people," said an online message Tuesday from 18 Million Rising, an Asian American advocacy group.

Peggy Huang's parents attend the Taiwanese Presbyterian church in Laguna Woods where a gunman fired into a lunchtime banquet in May, injuring five elderly parishioners and killing a 52-year-old doctor.

David Wenwei Chou, 68, who has pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder with hate crimes enhancements in the case, grew up in Taiwan but had recent roots in China.

He left notes in his car indicating that he did not believe Taiwan should be independent from China, said authorities, who believe he "specifically targeted the Taiwanese community."

Huang's parents were not at the church that day, but Huang, the former mayor of Yorba Linda, acted as an unofficial spokesperson for victims and survivors.

When Huang heard about the Monterey Park shooting, which killed 11 and injured nine, she feared another possible hate crime as she exchanged texts with family and friends.

It soon emerged from law enforcement sources that the shooter, identified by authorities as Huu Can Tran, 72, may have been motivated by a personal dispute.

With another older Asian man as a suspect, Huang's thoughts turned to the difficulty of getting treatment for immigrants who may not conceive of their problems as mental health issues.

When elders lose their jobs or retire, that makes for a tough transition, especially for men who had a "life of hard work," said Huang, 52. "They've been working all their lives, and they really don't know what to do with their lives."

Chou, the accused Taiwanese church shooter, lived a life of isolation and resentment in Las Vegas.

His critically ill wife had left him; he was unable to pay his rent, which was twice his monthly income; and he struggled to find work as a 68-year-old casino security guard.

Tran too appeared to struggle, twice reporting to police in Hemet that family members had tried to poison him.

Law enforcement sources are looking into whether Tran, who they believe frequented the Monterey Park dance studio as well as an Alhambra one where he was disarmed by an employee, was driven by jealousy or some other resentment.

Tran, who was born in Vietnam, shot himself in a parking lot in Torrance the day after the shooting and died at the scene.

Chunli Zhao, 66, who is suspected of killing seven people and injuring one in Half Moon Bay on Monday, lived and worked on a mushroom farm.

The victims may have been Zhao's coworkers, said San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus, who characterized the shooting as an "instance of workplace violence."

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that a former co-worker accused Zhao of trying to suffocate him and filed a restraining order against him in 2013.

Paul Hoang, a licensed clinical social worker, said he felt "deep sorrow" at the news that all three shooting suspects were older Asian American men.

Hoang, founder and CEO of Moving Forward Psychological Institute in Fountain Valley, with clients statewide who are Vietnamese or Chinese, said male Asian immigrants are saddled with expectations to be successful yet are not encouraged to share their feelings.

"If they're not succeeding or able to give the best to their families, that can be devastating," Hoang said.

In his practice and as a volunteer delivering home-cooked meals to the elderly, Hoang has seen the isolation that many senior citizens are experiencing during the pandemic, which is compounded for immigrants with language issues.

"They won't go to shelters or other institutions for help, because those places may not have anyone speaking their language or the food that they're used to eating," Hoang said. "Many of the services that are available right now are not culturally sensitive to our communities."

Older immigrants have a tendency to "keep it inside" and "say less" and are not as open to discussions about mental health as younger Asian Americans, said Jason Huang, 49, who is Taiwanese American and lives in Monterey Park, where Saturday night's shooting tore through Lunar New Year celebrations.

For those reasons, gathering places such as the Monterey Park dance studio where the shooting happened, or parks where immigrants do tai chi and other exercises, are especially important, Huang said.

"The dance hall is a place people knew they could go," he said. "The older generation who go to the park, they all know to go there."

The lack of community gathering spaces for senior citizens is an issue in Koreatown, said Steve Kang, director of external affairs for the Koreatown Youth and Community Center. A McDonald's on Western Avenue has become a quasi-community center.

"That McDonald's, God forbid if it goes away, that's going to be detrimental to our senior population," Kang said. "A lot of our low-income seniors congregate at that McDonald's because it's cheap, they can afford the drinks and the meals, and it's relatively safe and warm and hospitable."

But even as they are grieving and struggling to make sense of the shootings, people should avoid making sweeping generalizations about elderly Asian men, said Glenn Masuda, senior clinical director of the Asian Pacific Family Center in Rosemead, part of a network of clinics that provide mental health services in California.

"The question that I'm already getting from Asian and non-Asian alike, is what in the heck is going on with these Asian elderly men shooting people?" he said. "It makes no sense. And until we get more data, it's going to be hard to make sense."

Accused California shooters are outliers in several ways

[**Outliers,** from A1]
Suicides tend to occur in clusters that suggest contagion, McDevitt said, but there is little evidence that murders or mass shootings follow such a pattern.

More important, he added, is one of criminology's most established findings: When it comes to crime generally, and violent crime specifically, men tend to "age out" of criminal activity.

That pattern is seen with mass shootings as well.

A database maintained by Northeastern University's Department of Criminology shows that, at 72 years old, the man who sprayed bullets into a ballroom dance studio Saturday night in Monterey Park, and died the next day of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, was the second-oldest perpetrator of a mass killing in recent years.

The 66-year-old accused of gunning down seven people in San Mateo County on Monday afternoon would also rank among the oldest mass murderers.

That database goes back to 2006.

That both men were Asian, and immigrants, puts them in even smaller company. Since 1967, a database of mass shooters maintained by the Violence Project has found that 11 of 172 perpetrators — about 6.4% — were of Asian descent. Nine of those mass shooters had immigrated to the United States from birthplaces in Asia.

All told, 15.1% of the Violence Project's mass shooters were immigrants.

Although it is different in methodology and in the range of dates it covers, a database of mass murders maintained by Northeastern University, USA Today and the Associated Press tells a very similar story. It found that from 2006 until just before the two California shootings, 34 of 535 events — also 6.4% — were carried out by perpetrators identified as Asian or Pacific Islander.

But it is the ages of California's two latest mass shooters that surprised researchers the most. Not since a 64-year-old video poker player fatally shot 58 attendees of a Las Vegas music festival in 2017 has an older person carried out a mass shooting in the U.S.

Violence in general, and mass murder in particular, is largely the province of younger and middle-aged men, said Emma Fridel, who teaches criminology at Florida State University and has contributed to the Northeastern database. Over recent decades, the average age of mass murderers — defined as those who kill four or more people in a single incident with any weapon — has been between 30 and 32, she said.

(They are also overwhelmingly male: In the Violence Project's database of 172 mass shooters, all but four were men, and two of the four women acted in partnership with a man.)

"A key feature we see common among mass killers is this externalization of blame," Fridel said. "They tend to be collectors of injustices."

Despite their highly visible role in school shootings, teens and young adults are not the most likely demographic to engage in mass murder; they're generally too young to have accumulated enough grievances to move them to such violence, she said.

At the other end of the spectrum, older men tend to have "developed the coping skills to handle life's frustrations," she added.

Although they may harbor plenty of grievances, they seem to have safely reached old age precisely because they found less violent ways to manage their anger and disappointment.

"Mass shooters don't make it to old age because they generally can't cope for that long," Fridel said.

If aggrievement offers a general motive for mass murder, a shooter's choice of location may offer more specific clues as to the circumstances that set him off, experts say.

In this regard, experts including McDevitt consider the two men's crimes to be somewhat distinct. The Monterey Park shooter's choice of the Star Ballroom suggests that disappointing social relationships may have motivated his actions. The San Mateo County shooting appears to have targeted the suspect's coworkers or employers, which could point to problems with money or work relationships.

"Having two tragedies back to back causes people to look for patterns, and they may not exist," Fridel cautioned. "We are still talking about rare instances."

The Violence Project's database shows that 31% of mass shootings have happened at a workplace, and roughly 22% have occurred in a bar, restaurant or residence — venues that suggest a shooter might be motivated by failed relationships or interpersonal or group hatred.

Such distinctions, however, pale next to the single most-common factor that unites all mass shootings, said Dr. Amy Barnhorst, a UC Davis psychiatrist who studies gun violence.

"So many people struggle with entitlement, hatred, anger and disappointment," Barnhorst said. "The thing that makes a mass shooting is the gun."

Add a gun to the mix, and "all these different pathways that start in different places coalesce in a place where the rage and resentment results in gunfire rather than a punched-in wall or a bar fight," she said.

Here, too, the demographics in the two California shootings appear to be consistent with some warning signs for potential violence, but conflict with others.

An internet survey conducted in 2018 by researchers at UC Davis and Harvard University estimated that 4.2 million adults in California owned a firearm. A disproportionate number of those firearm owners — 43% — were 60 years of age or older.

In light of that finding, it comes as little surprise that the two shooters may have owned guns.

That said, gun ownership among Asian Americans appears to be more rare: In a state where Asians and Pacific Islanders account for roughly 16% of the population, the survey found that just 9% of gun owners identified their ethnicity as something other than white, Black or Latino.

The overwhelming majority of those gun owners "are very law-abiding, responsible gun owners," Barnhorst said. "It only takes one to give them a bad name."

Or two.

Photographs by JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images

SAN MATEO COUNTY sheriff's deputies on Tuesday check one of two farms that were the scene of a mass shooting the day before. It is believed that the suspect, Chunli Zhao, 66, had a grievance against co-workers.

Farmworker in custody in Half Moon Bay killings

[**Half Moon Bay,** from A1] official said.

Local authorities said they immediately recognized Zhao after his arrest as both a farm employee and someone who had received food and other support from a nonprofit that assists farmworkers.

"He was always positive in the conversation," said Joaquin Jimenez, Half Moon Bay's vice mayor and director of the farmworker program for Ayudando Latinos a Soñar, or ALAS, a nonprofit supporting the local Latino community.

Gov. Gavin Newsom traveled Tuesday to Half Moon Bay to meet with victims' families, local leaders and other community members.

He named the many communities he has visited after mass shootings and said he now had to add Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay to the list. "What the hell is going on?" Newsom asked.

"The one common denominator is these damn guns," he said. "I have no ideological opposition to someone owning a gun responsibly, but what the hell is wrong with us that we allow these weapons of war and large-capacity clips out on the streets or sidewalks? Why have we allowed this culture, this pattern, to continue?"

Half Moon Bay, with a population of about 11,000, is home to Silicon Valley refugees and an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 workers who labor in farms and nurseries. Some follow crops and harvests across America, but others have settled in Half Moon Bay year-round, Jimenez said.

A former employee of Mountain Mushroom Farm said they "worked in pairs," and "*Chinos y Mexicanos,*" or Chinese and Mexicans, often worked separately.

Residents expressed amazement over the brazenness of the shootings, which occurred in front of teenagers and younger children who had just been released from school.

Part of Jimenez's shock stemmed from Zhao's close connections in the town.

"He was part of that community," he said.

Although Zhao had presented no red flags to law enforcement during his time in Half Moon Bay, Corpus said her department Tuesday became aware of a 2013 restraining order filed against the suspect. The San Francisco Chronicle reported that a former co-worker obtained the order after accusing Zhao of trying to suffocate him while the two lived together.

Six men and two women were targeted in Monday's shootings, Corpus said.

The lone survivor, who sustained life-threatening injuries, was taken to a hospital to undergo surgery and was in stable condition Tuesday, officials said.

Five of those who were shot worked for California Terra Garden, which bought Mountain Mushroom Farm last March, according to spokesman David Oates, who added in a statement: "We remain shocked and grief-stricken over the senseless loss of four of our friends and long-time employees."

A DEPUTY secures the scene. "What the hell is going on?" Gov. Gavin Newsom, visiting Half Moon Bay, said of the back-to-back mass shootings in California.

Two of the victims had been identified by the San Mateo County coroner's office, which declined to release the names as it worked to notify their families.

"As some of the victims were members of our migrant community, this represents a unique challenge when it comes to identification and notifications of next of kin," Corpus said.

After fleeing from the second shooting scene, Zhao tossed his cellphone out the window in an apparent effort to prevent law enforcement from using it to find his location, the sheriff said.

Two hours after the first reports of the rampage, the suspect turned up near the sheriff's substation in Half Moon Bay, leaning back in his seat in his parked car.

Video from KGO-TV showed deputies, with guns drawn, taking Zhao to the ground.

"I'm not sure that he was fully aware that our substation was in close proximity," Corpus said.

Authorities said they found a semiautomatic handgun — which Zhao purchased and kept legally — inside the car.

Just steps from the substation, Vanessa Lomeli had been working at Coastside Tax Consultants when she heard sirens. The shooting suspect arrived and parked his car just outside, she said.

"We saw a couple cops running with guns, saying, 'Get down, get down,' " Lomeli recalled, adding that she and her colleagues crawled under their desks.

"We were just so terrified," said Lomeli, who had to walk home because her car was blocked by emergency vehicles. "I'm still shaken."

Deputies booked Zhao on charges of premeditated murder and first-degree attempted murder, with a sentencing enhancement for discharging a firearm during a violent felony.

San Mateo County Dist. Atty. Steve Wagstaffe said his office expected to bring charges against Zhao by Wednesday morning.

"Cases like this — we've never had one in this county of this many deaths at one scene or one time," he said. "This is a case that is at the beginning stage; it has a long road to travel over the coming months and years."

Half Moon Bay resident Suki Shay, 78, worried that the city associated with waves, sand and sun will now be known for the shooting.

"It's ruined this place," she said. "It's ruined our people, our businesses and our name."

The farmworker community targeted in the shootings already had been enduring a winter of trepidation, with heavy rains flooding homes and shutting down agricultural work.

"Our farmworkers give so much to us, and to see this violence happening is just a tragedy," said Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga, founder and executive director of ALAS, which regularly serves workers at the mushroom farm where the first shooting occurred Monday.

Employees affected by the shooting have not returned to their jobs. City and county officials said they would work with nonprofit groups to provide two weeks of wages to make up for lost pay.

Hernandez-Arriaga is calling for more resources for farmworkers, including mental health support.

"They give their life for us, to this job," she said. "In rain, in bad weather, in crisis, during the pandemic. It's time we respond to them with direct resources and support in a real way that makes a change."

In a statement, the United Farm Workers said it mourned the loss of those killed, adding that it was "heartbroken, angry and demanding answers."

"While we did not know them, they were part of the too often invisible, yet always essential, agricultural workforce that feeds America and the world," the union said. "As farmworkers, and as human beings, they deserved far better."

President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden also weighed in Tuesday, extending prayers "for those killed and injured in the latest tragic shooting in Half Moon Bay."

"For the second time in recent days, California communities are mourning the loss of loved ones in a senseless act of gun violence," the president said in a statement, referring to the Saturday-night shooting in a Monterey Park ballroom that killed 11 people.

The federal government has offered support to local authorities, Biden said. It is unclear whether he and Vice President Kamala Harris, who will travel to Monterey Park on Wednesday, will visit Half Moon Bay.

Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland pledged Tuesday that "all of us at the Justice Department, including the FBI and [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives], will continue to support the Half Moon Bay community in the difficult days ahead."

Half Moon Bay pulled together during a traumatic event, Corpus said, adding that she was proud of its residents.

"It feels like the blows just keep coming to this community," she noted.

And with this latest blow, Half Moon Bay has become yet another American town rocked by gun violence, with residents left confronting anguish and grief.

"We're just hearing the pain, the excruciating pain and shock they're in," Hernandez-Arriaga said. "All the farmworkers that live there, their families. It's a fear that has penetrated their soul. How do we come back from this? There's a lot of work to be done."

Times staff writers Summer Lin, Brittny Mejia, Luke Money and James Rainey contributed to this report.

What's next for state's gun laws?

[**Guns,** from A1] report by the Public Policy Institute of California found the state had a lower rate of mass shootings than the national average.

Dr. Amy Barnhorst, associate director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at UC Davis, said the state's "patchwork of sensible evidence-based firearm laws" has contributed to those better outcomes.

"It's hard to say it's this law or that law in particular, but all of them working in concert together probably is what reduces our rates," Barnhorst said. "We have something in place for a lot of different scenarios, which is really important because ultimately the one thing that mass shooters have in common is their guns, but they're an increasingly diverse group and have a whole variety of motivations."

But California's aggressive laws can do only so much. Several recently passed state gun laws also have been eviscerated by the federal courts and, given the expansive interpretation of the constitutional right to bear arms by the current conservative majority of the Supreme Court, any new laws passed by California lawmakers could suffer a similar fate.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has made gun control a core tenet of his political identity, acknowledged the limits of state-level policy even as he defended California's record.

"I'm proud of California," Newsom said during a news conference Tuesday in Half Moon Bay, where seven people were killed Monday in what appears to be a case of workplace violence. "We've led the nation. We've led the national conversation in gun safety. No state in America has done more than the state of California.

"But we can't do this alone. And with all due respect, we feel like we are," he said, calling out House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) for saying "not one word" about the recent shootings.

Democrats in the California Legislature say they aren't waiting for federal action. They have a list of bills lined up this year that would bolster an already extensive list of rules restricting who can buy and sell firearms.

"While California is in the forefront in gun control policy, this tragedy reminds us that our work is not done," said Assemblymember Mike Fong (D-Alhambra), who represents Monterey Park.

Newsom supports proposed legislation to limit who can be issued a license to carry concealed weapons, one of the few gun control measures that failed in the Legislature last year. Senate Bill 2 was reintroduced more than a month before this month's tragedies, and already promises to be one of the main gun bills for the 2023 legislative session. The measure aims to comply with a Supreme Court decision in June that deemed restrictive concealed-carry laws unconstitutional, while still maintaining tight regulations around who can obtain the permits.

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, an Encino Democrat and co-chair of the California Legislative Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, unveiled a trio of proposals to regulate firearms. One would establish an excise tax on ammunition and guns in California to help finance violence prevention and school safety efforts, while another would allow residents suffering from mental health crises to voluntarily add their names to a "do not sell" list. The third measure would prohibit someone who has a domestic violence protective order filed against them from buying or owning guns for an additional three years after the order has lifted.

Other proposals include a ban on selling body armor, which some mass shooters have used, and another to make the possession of a so-called ghost gun a felony.

The proposed changes to California's gun laws are relatively minor compared with the suite of laws Newsom signed in 2022. One established a "firearm industry standard of conduct" and will allow, beginning in July, for local governments, the state Department of Justice and gun violence survivors to sue for egregious violations of state sales and marketing regulations. Another was modeled after Texas' vigilante abortion law and increased legal liability for the gun industry, while two more limited firearms advertising to minors and further restricted ghost guns.

"There's a lot of evidence that our gun safety laws are working and saving people's lives," Gabriel said. "But obviously when we see these kinds of horrific incidents, it's a reminder that we have a lot more work to do."

The massacres in California this month occurred less than a year after President Biden signed what was considered the most significant federal gun control law in recent history, after both political parties struck a deal and limited its scope. That law encourages states to pass "red flag" laws — which allow for the temporary removal of firearms from those who pose a public safety risk — expands background checks and now prohibits romantic partners, in addition to spouses, from owning firearms if they've been convicted of domestic abuse.

Still, proponents of stricter firearms rules have long argued that bolder action is needed to end gun violence. They've called for a federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and for even stronger red flag laws and background checks.

"The federal government needs to do its job," Newsom said.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) authored the nation's first nationwide ban on assault weapons during her first term, overcoming opposition from the National Rifle Assn. to get it passed, but Congress allowed the landmark legislation to expire in 2004. According to University of Massachusetts researcher Louis Klarevas, author of "Rampage Nation: Securing America from Mass Shootings," the number of mass shootings declined during the ban and grew more frequent after the law's sunset.

Feinstein attempted without success to reenact the assault weapons ban, including in the aftermath of the attempted assassination of then-Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in 2011 in Tucson and the mass killing at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut in 2012. She reintroduced another bill on Monday to ban military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Obstacles to efforts to enact more stringent gun laws extend beyond the partisan-gridlocked halls of Congress and into the federal court system, where Republicans and gun rights groups have found great success in blocking stringent firearms laws.

Several 2nd Amendment organizations have brought cases before a federal judge in San Diego who has struck down California's longtime, statewide ban on assault weapons and, more recently, an important provision of California's latest bill that authorizes private lawsuits against the gun industry.

Sam Paredes, executive director of Gun Owners of California, warned that his group would sue to block the implementation of additional gun restrictions, including the concealed-carry bill, should it pass.

"I fully expect that the Legislature is going to cram a piece of legislation down," Paredes said. "But ultimately we will challenge it in court and we will win."

Ari Freilich, state policy director for Giffords Law Center, acknowledged those challenges.

"It's a real obstacle and it's not a new one," he said. "There's been essentially a cottage industry of lawyers and gun-industry-funded groups that … sue the state of California to try to dismantle what we've built over a few decades."

Freilich said the Supreme Court's decision against broad concealed-carry laws last year has effectively "invited a new wave of lawsuits to essentially relitigate what had been previously settled matters."

But that doesn't mean California should pump the brakes, Freilich said.

"It is important to note how, zooming out, despite the constant threat and burden of defending lawsuits against what California has built," he said, "what we have built has been successfully implemented in large part and is making progress."

BUSINESS

Murdoch drops News Corp.-Fox merger

Mogul had hoped to reunite the two halves of his media empire, but major investors were skeptical.

By Meg James

Adrian Edwards GC Images

RUPERT MURDOCH, right, with son Lachlan at the U.S. Open in 2018, had wanted to stitch back together the company he spent more than 50 years building.

Rupert Murdoch has abandoned his bid to reunite the two halves of his media empire.

Facing resistance among leading investors, the 91-year-old mogul and his son Lachlan on Tuesday notified the respective boards of Fox Corp. and News Corp. that the family was withdrawing its earlier request to explore a combination of the two companies. Such a merger would have brought Fox News and the Wall Street Journal under the same corporate roof.

A merger also would have consolidated the power of Lachlan Murdoch, currently chief executive of Fox, as he would have managed the combined company.

The Murdochs did not detail their reasons for dumping the merger talks less than three months after instigating them. A company statement said Rupert and Lachlan Murdoch "have determined that a combination is not optimal for shareholders of News Corp and Fox at this time."

Major investment firms, including T. Rowe Price and Independent Franchise Partners, reportedly were skeptical that a merged entity would increase shareholder value. Winning over enough shareholders to approve the deal was increasingly problematic for the Murdoch family, which holds about 39% of the voting shares but less than 15% of the economic value of the two companies.

Rupert Murdoch had wanted to stitch back together the company he spent more than 50 years building.

A decade ago, investors successfully pressured Murdoch to break up the company, arguing that its print publications, including dozens of newspapers in Murdoch's native Australia, were pulling down the value of the company.

The breakup came in the wake of the British cellphone hacking scandal at Murdoch-owned tabloids in London, which tarnished the family's reputation and led to hundreds of millions of dollars in legal costs, including payouts to victims.

Now, it's the television company that potentially has significant legal exposure. Dominion Voting Systems has filed a $1.6-billion defamation lawsuit against Fox Corp., alleging that Fox News perpetuated former President Trump's false claims about the election being "stolen" to placate viewers who were alienated by the network's early but ultimately accurate call that Biden had won Arizona, putting him on the path to victory.

At a hearing last month, an attorney for Dominion revealed some of the testimony Fox News hosts and executives have given in depositions in which they acknowledged skepticism over the claims presented by Trump's representatives. The attorney quoted Fox News host Sean Hannity as saying under oath that he "did not believe it for one second."

The Dominion case is headed for trial this spring.

Fox News has maintained that its reporting on the allegations of voter fraud during the 2020 election, as alleged by Trump and his lawyers, was newsworthy and protected by the 1st Amendment.

Murdoch's empire is smaller than it once was. In 2019, the mogul sold much of Fox's entertainment holdings to Walt Disney Co. for $71 billion. That left Fox Corp. with Fox News, Fox Business News, the Los Angeles-based Fox network, two cable sports channels and the Tubi streaming service. The publishing titles — including Dow Jones, the New York Post, the Times of London and the Sun tabloid — reside in News Corp., which also has Australian TV assets.

In the statement, the companies said that their board committees looking at the merger proposal have been dissolved.

Times staff writer Stephen Battaglio contributed to this report.

U.S. is suing Google over ads

Filing with eight states calls for breakup of firm's ad tech business, alleging monopoly of the digital market.

By Leah Nylen

Google
hey Apple it's Android.
the ball may have dropped on 2022, but you don't have to drop the ball on fixing your pixelated photos
and vid
all rolling.
here's s
de to
John Locher Associated Press

GOOGLE said the suit "attempts to pick winners and losers in the highly competitive advertising technology sector." Above, at CES in Las Vegas this month.

The U.S. Justice Department and eight states Tuesday sued Alphabet's Google, calling for the breakup of the search giant's ad technology business over alleged illegal monopolization of the digital advertising market.

"The lawsuit we have filed today seeks to hold Google to account for what we allege are its longstanding monopolies in digital advertising technologies that content creators use to sell ads and advertisers use to buy ads on the open Internet," Justice Department antitrust chief Jonathan Kanter said in a news conference Tuesday announcing the suit.

New York, California and Virginia were among the states that signed on to the complaint, which was filed in federal court in Virginia.

Google said in a blog post that the lawsuit "attempts to pick winners and losers in the highly competitive advertising technology sector. The case "largely duplicates an unfounded lawsuit by the Texas Attorney General, much of which was recently dismissed by a federal court. DOJ is doubling down on a flawed argument that would slow innovation, raise advertising fees, and make it harder for thousands of small businesses and publishers to grow."

Alphabet's stock extended declines on the news, dropping as much as 2.5% to touch a session low. The stock slid 23% in the 12 months that ended Monday, underperforming the Nasdaq 100 index.

"No matter the industry and no matter the company, the Justice Department will vigorously enforce our antitrust laws," Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland said during the news conference.

The lawsuit represents the Biden administration's first major case challenging the power of one of the nation's largest tech companies, following through on an investigation that began under former President Trump. It also marks one of the few times that the Justice Department has called for the breakup of a major company since it dismantled the Bell telecom system in 1982.

Google is the dominant player in the $278.6-billion U.S. digital ad market, controlling most of the technology used to buy, sell and serve online advertising. The Justice Department said Google's dominance enables it to keep at least $0.30 out of every dollar advertisers spend through its online advertising tools. A resolution in the case could be years away.

"Google's pervasive power over the entire ad tech industry has been questioned by its own digital advertising executives," according to the complaint. "The analogy would be if Goldman or Citibank owned the NYSE."

The lawsuit marks the Justice Department's second antitrust suit against Google and the fifth major case in the U.S. challenging the company's business practices.

State attorneys general have filed three separate suits against Google, alleging it dominates the markets for online search, advertising technology and apps on the Android mobile platform in violation of antitrust laws.

Kanter said during the news conference that Google engaged in 15 years of anticompetitive conduct, including a "pattern of acquisitions to obtain market dominance."

Those include the 2007 acquisition of online advertising giant DoubleClick for $3.1 billion, which the Justice Department is now seeking to unwind, the 2010 deal to buy Invite Media for $81 million and the 2011 purchase of AdMeld for $400 million.

The Justice Department's complaint also seeks damages from Google, allegedly stemming from overcharging federal government agencies, such as the U.S. Army, that purchased online ads. The agency said the U.S. government has spent more than $100 million on online display advertising since 2019, but the complaint didn't indicate how much the Justice Department is seeking to recoup.

> 'Google's pervasive power over the entire ad tech industry has been questioned by its own digital advertising executives.'
>
> — Joint lawsuit
> filed against Google by Justice Department and eight states

The allegations in the Justice Department's suit mirror those brought by attorneys general in 16 states as well as Puerto Rico in 2020. That lawsuit is pending in federal court in New York.

The Mountain View, Calif.-based company is No. 1 in the $626.9-billion global digital ad market, according to 2023 estimates by research firm EMarketer, with the U.S. representing the biggest piece. Alphabet's ad operations are expected to bring in $73.8 billion in U.S. digital ad revenue in 2023. Most of that, $58.50 billion, comes from Google's search advertising business. The remaining $15.3 billion is from display ads.

Google runs an ad-buying service for marketers and an ad-selling one for publishers, as well as a trading exchange in which both sides complete transactions in lightning-fast auctions.

These exchanges operate like online stock-trading platforms with an automated bidding process. Competitors and publishers have complained that Google leverages parts of this vast network, such as its ad exchange, to benefit other areas and kneecap rivals. Google alone is expected to generate some $65.7 billion in digital ad revenue in the U.S. this year, representing about 26.5% of the market, while YouTube represents 2.9%, according to EMarketer.

The company's market share has slipped over time from a high of 37.4% of U.S. digital ad spending in 2015, according to EMarketer.

Google argues that the market for online advertising is a crowded and competitive one. In court filings and congressional testimony, the company has noted that its rivals include other major players in the ad tech market such as Amazon.com, Meta Platforms and Microsoft.

The department's scrutiny of Google's control of the ad tech market goes back to the Trump administration. The Justice Department under then-Atty. Gen. William Barr sued Google over its search business instead, alleging that the company used exclusive distribution deals with wireless carriers and phone makers to lock out competition. That case is due to go to trial in September.

The agency continued the investigation into advertising technology under Biden. After Kanter was confirmed to lead the antitrust division in November 2021, Google asked the Justice Department to review whether Kanter should be recused from all actions involving the company because of his past work representing its critics.

Kanter was barred from working on Google's monopoly investigations while the Justice Department deliberated on his potential recusal. The Justice Department ultimately ruled that Kanter can work on cases related to Google.

Nylen writes for Bloomberg.

Twitter is hit by legal claims for unpaid rent

Landlords in the U.S. and U.K. are taking Musk to court as firm struggles after buyout.

Associated Press

More landlords are taking Twitter to court over unpaid rent, this time at the social media company's headquarters in San Francisco and its British offices — the latest sign that owner Elon Musk's extreme cost-cutting strategy includes simply not paying the bills.

Twitter is facing a lawsuit over allegations it failed to pay rent for its head office, according to California court documents. The owner of its premises in central London, meanwhile, said it's taking the company to court over rental debt.

As chief executive, Musk is slashing costs after his $44-billion deal last year to buy Twitter left the company on the hook for about $1 billion in annual interest payments. Twitter has already been taken to court this month for falling behind on rent at another San Francisco office.

It's the latest legal headache for the Tesla chief, who has been testifying in recent days in a separate class-action lawsuit from Tesla investors alleging a 2018 tweet from him misled them about funding to take the electric-car maker private.

Musk's cost-cutting strategy at Twitter has included gutting the company's workforce and auctioning off memorabilia and fancy office furniture.

Twitter did not respond to a request for comment. Its communications department was shut down after the billionaire's acquisition.

The owner of Twitter's San Francisco headquarters, located at 1355 Market St., is suing the company after it failed to make its latest monthly rent payment, according to documents filed Friday with the Superior Court of California.

The company, Sri Nine Market Square, said Twitter "breached the Lease by failing to pay monthly rent and additional rent" for January amounting to $3.4 million.

Twitter, which has had a lease for three floors in the building since 2011, had fallen behind on a similar amount of rent in December, which Sri Nine Market Square recouped from a letter of credit that Twitter had put up as a security deposit, the filing said.

After using those funds, the landlord says Twitter still owes $3.16 million in unpaid rent and is seeking late fees and interest plus attorneys' fees. The social media company still occupies the property, the landlord said.

In Britain, the Crown Estate has started court proceedings against Twitter after the company fell behind on rent at its offices near London's famed Piccadilly Circus.

The Crown Estate, which owns some of the priciest real estate in central London, said it took action after previous contact with Twitter over the unpaid rent and is in talks with the company but provided no further information.

The Crown Estate is a vast property portfolio that includes much of London's Regent Street as well as the Windsor estate. It's an independently run commercial business, but its profits are used as a benchmark for the funding of the Sovereign Grant, which is the public money that funds the British royal family's official work.

@twitter
@twitter
Jeff Chiu Associated Press

TWITTER has been accused of owing rent for its head office in San Francisco and its British offices.

Tech layoffs could lead to shifting of talent

[**Tech workers,** from A1] bear that thesis out. As everyone's life suddenly migrated online, software giants saw their stocks soar and tech workers came to enjoy the luxury of coding from a living room couch.

Quinn's decision to enter the industry seemed prescient at the time. "It gave me a really strong sense of safety and stability that in hindsight really wasn't there," he said.

In November, Quinn was laid off, part of a wave of powerhouse tech companies cutting jobs and implementing hiring freezes that began last summer and gathered force through late 2022 and into this year.

Since Jan. 1, legions of employees have been placed on the chopping block at Amazon (18,000 layoffs), Microsoft (10,000 layoffs), Salesforce (8,000 layoffs) and Google (12,000 layoffs). Those cuts came on the backs of earlier excisions at Meta (11,000 layoffs in November) and Snap (1,300 layoffs in August), as well as at Twitter, which is melting down for other reasons.

The industrywide downturn has led many tech workers — no longer basking in the fervent attentions of an industry desperate to woo the best and brightest talent — to reevaluate their careers just as Quinn once did.

Where they head now could reshape the industry for decades to come.

"Someone's loss is another's gain," said Dan Ives, a tech analyst and managing director at Wedbush Securities.

Highly skilled developers and software engineers won't stay unemployed for long, Ives said, and the companies that snap them up will probably be those at the forefront of exciting new sectors such as artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, cloud storage and cybersecurity. "I think it's a repositioning of tech."

BRIAN CONTRERAS Los Angeles Times

BICYCLES that Google allows workers to use sit outside a building on the tech giant's campus in Mountain View, Calif. The company is shedding 12,000 jobs.

The cuts come on the heels of unsustainably rapid hiring over the last five years, Ives said. "Now, the clock's struck midnight for hyper-growth, [and] you're seeing tech CEOs rip the Band-Aid off."

It's a moment with notable similarities to the bursting of the dot-com bubble in the early 2000s, when an inchoate version of the internet economy turned to mist before investors' eyes amid the collapse of Pets.com and other frothy Web 1.0 ventures.

Yet that collapsed empire supplied the raw material for the next 20 years of tech, Ives said, by pumping a bunch of talented software engineers back into the market. These latest layoffs, he said, could have the same effect.

"I view it more as a redistribution and a change in the pecking order, rather than a sign of darker times," the analyst said.

The shift away from the so-called FAANG companies — Facebook (now Meta), Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google — is part and parcel with a larger trend in which tech workers are growing disillusioned with many of Silicon Valley's biggest employers, most of which have at this point racked up reputational blemishes if not outright scandals.

Some workers may now, post-layoff and with their golden handcuffs snipped, take the chance to find jobs more aligned with their values.

"Since COVID, really, what I've noticed is tech workers of all stripes — but particularly those with experience — no longer want to work for the Facebooks and the Googles and the Microsofts," said John Chadfield, a secretary with the United Tech and Allied Workers union in Britain. "It's just not an aspiration anymore."

Some software engineers will now prioritize working at smaller companies that can offer them remote work flexibility, four-day workweeks and a better quality of life, Chadfield predicted. Others will turn to uber-flexible freelance work.

But the shifts to come could be more radical than just employees moving from big tech companies to smaller, sprightlier ones. It's sometimes said that every company is now a software company, given how omnipresent tech is in every facet of the economy, and many nontech companies still have good reasons to hire the people that traditional tech firms just laid off.

Chadfield said he's recently seen tech workers take on roles at government agencies and NGOs.

"They're not running for cover; a lot of them don't need to take whatever comes their way," he said of tech workers. "They're filling well-open market gaps and being choosy about where they go."

The insurance company Allstate recently signaled plans to hire laid-off tech workers to help beef up its technological capabilities. The Department of Veterans Affairs has made similar overtures.

One engineering manager, Jace — who was let go from a San Francisco software company in December — said that the current turmoil in big, traditional tech companies isn't representative of tech careers overall, which now encompass a broad range of sectors, including healthcare and banking.

"Every single company has an app, it has a website, it has a service," said Jace, who withheld his last name because he's actively job-searching. "You might see a broadening of what it means to work in technology, what it means to work in engineering."

A job in tech is not necessarily "at a place with a slide and a ball pit," he said, alluding to the famously summer camp-ish vibe that many Silicon Valley companies cultivated before the pandemic.

Some college graduates, however, are still drawn to the tech giants despite the new lack of job security available.

Allison, a college senior studying computer science in the Bay Area, said she accepted an offer at a FAANG company over two defense industry opportunities in Pennsylvania and Idaho.

"Better to apply for a place that gives $250,000 and get laid off in 6 months ... than go to Idaho and get $100,000," she said. "I'm willing to accept risk for significantly more money."

Some of her friends, who previously did tech internships at companies outside the traditional tech ecosystem, are also still gunning for full-time positions at larger companies, she said. Again, pay is their motive.

But not everyone has been as lucky in securing a job before graduation, she said; plenty of her friends have sent out hundreds of applications, some even settling for internships, with no response.

Nontechnical tech workers — that is, those who don't write code or possess other engineering skills — have been particularly affected by the pullback, said Nataliya Nedzhvetskaya, a UC Berkeley doctoral candidate who studies tech employee activism.

"The majority of these layoffs are impacting people [working in] recruiting or customer service at these companies," Nedzhvetskaya said.

Many tech companies also rely on temporary or contract workers, who — even in boom times — face substantially less stable employment conditions than their full-time counterparts, she said.

"Google's more than 50% contracted labor," Nedzhvetskaya said, "and if those people aren't rehired, or if their contract is canceled before its completion date, that doesn't register as a layoff."

For Quinn — the tech worker who pivoted from video games to software in 2019, only to get laid off late last year — changing economic head winds have forced him to reconsider his commitment to the tech industry.

Though he initially thought he'd simply find a similar job at another tech company after getting laid off from the customer service one, he's since struggled to replicate what he lost. Applications to multiple companies in the last few months have neared their final steps, he said, only for a sudden hiring freeze to put him back in the hunt.

Quinn's now looking at roles in healthcare, game and app development and even mortgage documentation — that is, sectors that use tech but where the employers aren't tech companies per se. He's not sure if he's "dead-set" on staying in traditional tech, he said. Many of his colleagues, he added, are asking themselves the same thing.

"I think everybody that I'm talking to, at least, is kind of having a soul-searching moment of: 'Hmm, is this what I thought it was?' " Quinn said. " 'Am I insulated from all these economic shifts?' "

MARKET ROUNDUP

Recession worries leave stocks mixed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wall Street's major stock indexes closed mixed Tuesday, as more big companies delivered their financial results for the last three months of 2022 amid lingering concerns about a potential recession.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped less than 0.1%, its second loss in three trading days. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.3% and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.3%. Small-company stocks also lost ground, with the Russell 2000 shedding 0.3%.

The declines for three of the four major indexes marks a reversal from Monday, when a tech company-driven rally more than made up for the S&P 500's losses last week.

Stocks have been volatile as investors try to get a better sense of how inflation is affecting the economy, the potential for a recession and whether the Federal Reserve can ease up on its aggressive interest rate increases.

The latest batch of earnings show that companies continue to struggle with the effects of inflation on consumers and supply chains.

Post-it notes and industrial coatings maker 3M fell 6.2% for the biggest drop among S&P 500 stocks after reporting weak fourth-quarter earnings and announcing job cuts. It is the latest company to announce layoffs as consumers get squeezed by inflation and worries grow about a bigger pullback in spending and a possible recession.

Union Pacific fell 3.3% after reporting disappointing earnings and revenue.

Microsoft rose 4% in after-hours trading after the software and technology giant reported earnings that topped Wall Street's forecasts. It closed down 0.2% in regular trading.

All told, the S&P 500 slipped 2.86 points to 4,016.95. The Nasdaq gave up 30.14 points to close at 11,334.27, while the Dow added 104.40 points to close at 33,733.96.

The Russell 2000 index of small companies slid 5.16 points to 1,885.61.

U.S. crude oil prices fell 1.8%.

Trading in more than a dozen companies was temporarily halted on the New York Stock Exchange after an apparent technical issue caused wide swings in their stock prices right as the market opened.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.46% from 3.52% late Monday.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,733.96	+104.40	+0.31	+1.77
S&P 500	4,016.95	-2.86	-0.07	+4.62
Nasdaq composite	11,334.27	-30.14	-0.27	+8.29
S&P 400	2,581.13	-9.40	-0.36	+6.20
Russell 2000	1,885.61	-5.16	-0.27	+7.06
EuroStoxx 50	4,154.70	+3.88	+0.09	+9.56
Nikkei (Japan)	27,299.19	+393.15	+1.46	+4.62
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	22,044.65	—	—	+11.44

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	NA	NA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
	4.39% APY 30 mos. CD Special - $100K Minimum to open - Member FDIC									
First Credit Bank First Credit Bank	NA	NA	3.03	4.00	4.50	4.65	4.75	4.75	4.50	310-273-2500
	NA	NA	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	
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Tustin Community Bank Tustin Community Bank	0.05	1.01	0.50	0.75	2.02	1.51	1.51	1.51	1.51	714-730-5662 www.tustincmtybank.com
	100	50,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	

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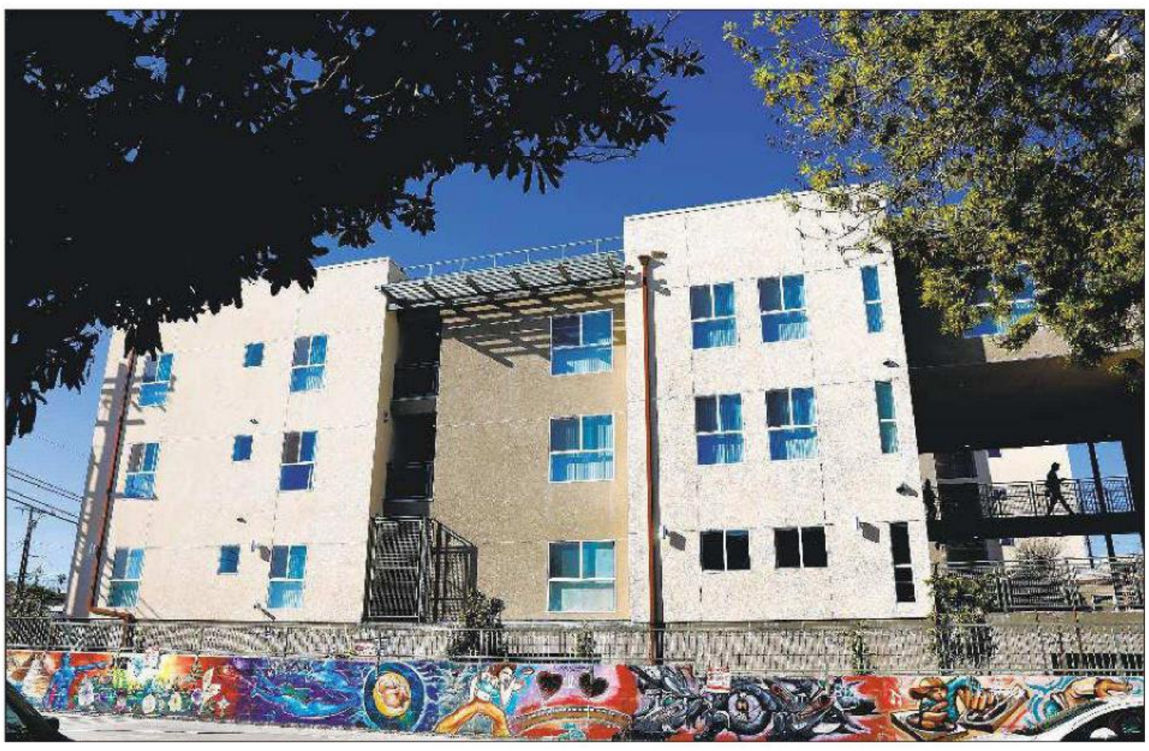
OPINION

EDITORIALS

A plan to cut red tape for housing

A mayoral directive to speed up review of new construction on affordable units looks promising.



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

A SUPPORTIVE housing project in South Los Angeles pictured in 2020.

FOR YEARS, THE biggest impediment to reducing homelessness in Los Angeles has been a lack of permanent housing. Proposition HHH, the $1.2-billion bond measure approved by voters in 2016 to build 10,000 units of housing for homeless people, was an ambitious start to providing a chunk of desperately needed housing. But it has taken six years to get 2,110 units open. It's good that another 4,279 are under construction and 2,148 more are in pre-development, but we need it all — and more — faster.

Following the emergency declaration on homelessness on her first day in office, Mayor Karen Bass last month signed an executive directive to speed up construction of housing projects that are 100% affordable — and move homeless people into that housing as soon as possible. She is doing this by clearing some of the bureaucratic hurdles that slow down housing construction. It's a mandate to city officials who deal with housing developments to treat those projects with the urgency that the crisis needs.

This is a practical step, and essential to her goal of housing 17,000 people in her first year in office. Bass is not the first mayor to try to speed things up. Mayor Eric Garcetti tried too. But if she's steadfast in pushing the bureaucracy, she could be the first mayor to make a dramatic difference in the time line of homeless housing projects, and have a big impact on getting people off the streets.

Here's how the directive might move the needle: A housing project has numerous and necessary steps along the way to get building permits, starting with reviews by the planning, fire and water and power departments, among other agencies. These reviews are generally sequential — what one city official called "a conveyor belt."

The Bass directive requires most reviews and approvals be done simultaneously, not sequentially. That won't work all the time. One department can flag a problem on a project that prompts a change requiring the project to go back to another department to be reassessed. Even so, the idea of having plans reviewed simultaneously could make approvals go faster.

Bass' construction directive also gets rid of the extensive additional review that was required for affordable housing projects with 50 or more units. That process entailed reviews by planning and zoning staff as well as the Planning Commission and added months to getting approval.

Mercedes Marquez, L.A.'s chief of Housing and Homelessness Solutions, said planning department officials estimate that 199 projects with an approximate total of 7,000 housing units currently in the system could be sped up by two to six months by the new directive. Previously it could take a year or longer for a development to be reviewed and permitted. At least one developer of housing for homeless people has seen results already, when a project's July date for a Planning Commission hearing was moved up to February.

The directive will also accelerate the slow pace at which city-subsidized housing units are filled. Now, filling a unit can take an average of four months. Before they even get a chance at a unit, homeless people must first be evaluated and prioritized for housing with services and put into a database and have their documents (Social Security numbers, any benefits they are eligible for, etc.) in order. Then, when there is a unit and a rental voucher available, the next person on a list must be located. Sometimes the person is never found. Then case managers look for another person.

It's a ridiculous process that Marquez and city housing officials want to fix — and should. Lining up more prospective tenants at a time for an available unit could whittle down the process to 45 days at the outside, Marquez estimates.

Of course, building housing is a time-consuming and expensive venture. And city officials should be looking for housing projects that use innovative materials to build faster and cheaper. But the directive can't do anything about the fact that developers of affordable housing still have to cobble together sources of funding in addition to whatever they get from the city. And that takes time.

This directive is no magic wand. But that's OK if it can cut enough red tape so that housing for homeless people takes a lot *less* time to come online. So far, this directive shows promise. But we will be watching to see if Bass' directive fulfills its promise to get more people off the streets quicker.

What were probation officials thinking?

The county department was about to put 337 semiautomatic pistols on the street in an auction.

FREDERIC J. BROWN AFP/Getty Images

AN LAPD officer displays a recovered gun from a buyback.

IT BOGGLES THE mind.

As some Los Angeles County leaders were rushing to the scene in Monterey Park where 11 people were fatally shot with a 9-millimeter semiautomatic pistol Saturday, other county officials were preparing to put hundreds more handguns — all of them 9-millimeter semiautomatic pistols — on the street.

An auction website known as GovDeals was offering a "Big Lot of Firearms" made up of 337 Smith & Wesson and Beretta handguns with magazines. Many had never been fired. The highest bid as of Monday was $25,000.

The seller was the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Supervisor Hilda Solis had spent two days at the shooting scene and at hospitals visiting survivors when her staff was informed by a Times editorial writer of the auction.

"I'm dismayed," she said. She should be.

Solis introduced a motion at Tuesday's supervisors' meeting to stop the sale and to get to the bottom of it. By Monday afternoon — after the fatal shooting of seven people near Half Moon Bay — the Probation Department had pulled out of the auction on its own.

The current administration said in a statement that the sale had been "initiated more than two years ago under the department's former administration," but that the department approved putting the guns up for auction earlier this month.

The department said it will use an "alternative method" to unload the guns.

Law enforcement agencies periodically buy back guns from the public to melt them down and keep them off the street. It is hypocritical and worse than senseless if those guns are merely replaced by weapons to be put into circulation by the government itself.

The same can be said of the millions of dollars the county has poured into an Office of Violence Prevention to curb gun violence, if it's simultaneously trafficking in weapons.

Good for Solis for demanding answers, and for the board for adopting the motion late Tuesday.

Here are some more questions she and her colleagues ought to ask: Where did these guns come from? What other county agencies (Sheriff's Department, for example) use weapons and how do they dispose of them when they are no longer needed?

How is it possible that so many Probation Department guns were never fired, even on a range? How long has the county been in the business of putting deadly weapons on the street?

And how on Earth could the Board of Supervisors be unaware of an auction like this going on under its own nose?

And will county officials finally adopt policies that ensure more guns don't end up on the street?

LETTERS

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

STUDENTS write during class at Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet in L.A. last March.

Technology, yes. Chatbots, no

Re "Chatbots belong in our classrooms," Opinion, Jan. 19

I can only guess that the experts who wrote this op-ed article never served as classroom teachers who assign and grade essays. They claim that artificial intelligence provided by chatbots will provide the knowledge that encourages students to think.

The process these authors envision is a student approaching an essay writing assignment thirsting for knowledge, using the knowledge-providing chatbot and then starting to think. As a longtime college teacher, I know that this perception is far from reality.

Normally, a student's first reaction is fear of failure. Most will then start the process of writing by thinking. Those few who want to take shortcuts will consult Google, Wikipedia or a professional essay writing service. These forms of high-tech cheating relieve the fear of failure and bypass the desired process of thinking.

The op-ed writers cite Socrates, who eschewed writing out of fear that it encourages forgetfulness. Fortunately for us, the wisdom of Socrates has indeed not been forgotten because it has been passed down through the ages by means of the written word.

Thinking is fundamentally a human process, one that should use technology as a resource, not a crutch.

STEPHEN SLOANE
Lomita

::

Although I agree that chatbots need to be integrated into the learning environment, I strongly disagree that today's students know less but think better than students of a previous era.

Online education during the pandemic has sucked knowledge from the brains of students and diminished their ability to think.

Duckworth and Ungar mention the common use of calculators in calculus. Calculators have at best a minimal role in teaching calculus and mathematics in general. An argument could be made that calculators should be permitted only when students have mastered arithmetic. Computers, however, have a vital and increasing role in the teaching of mathematics.

I think teachers of the humanities will find chatbots a challenge. Thankfully, I teach math, and in-class tests will tell me who knows the material and who doesn't.

JAMES STEIN
Redondo Beach

The writer is a professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics at Cal State Long Beach.

Admit it: It's the guns, stupid

Re "Monterey Park mass shooting is horrific, but all too familiar," editorial, Jan. 23

Your point about killers having one thing in common — they have guns — reminds me of an exchange I heard years ago: In reply to "Guns don't kill people, people kill people," someone said, "People with guns kill people."

I read some initial reporting about the Monterey Park suspect having some anger issues. Whether or not that turns out to be true, it reminds me of Homer Simpson being told he had to wait for a background check before purchasing a gun. Frustrated, he replied, "But I'm mad now!"

Reducing gun violence requires us to consider many issues. In the meantime, how many deaths will it take until we and the people we elect admit, "It's the guns, stupid"?

JOHN SAVILLE
Corona

::

In addition to guns, mass killers have more important things in common — desires for notoriety, and to inflict as much misery as they have suffered.

Your front-page stories on the Monterey Park shooting and coverage of the suspect surely fulfill these desires. This coverage will assure other monsters that their future acts of horror will achieve similar outcomes.

More than 70 million Americans are gun owners, and 99.9% of them never use a firearm to take a life. Yes, America needs to stop the carnage of the 0.01% who commit these atrocities.

Editorials would be more useful if they focused on outlawing removable magazines holding more than six shots, red-flag laws that operate quickly and cheaply, and laws creating consequences for people failing to report an atrocity they know is being planned.

DAVID A. WALSH
Manhattan Beach

::

This is sick. We are sick as a society to tolerate this all so folks can have their guns.

Guns have become the golden calves that are worshiped and defended against any sensible laws.

Oh, we have to obey the 2nd Amendment and make sure we have guns for "2nd Amendment remedies." That part of the Constitution was written when we had muskets that had one shot and took a few moments to reload.

Our forefathers could not have imagined today's assault weapons, and the purpose of the 2nd Amendment certainly wasn't to give citizens the means to overthrow the government if they thought it was out of control.

When will this insanity stop and we say enough is enough? I would give up my right to own a gun because the safety of our communities is more important.

ANNE EARHART
Corona del Mar

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OP-ED

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE Associated Press

SEN. KYRSTEN SINEMA of Arizona has declared herself an independent. For Senate Democrats, the question is whether supporting a Democratic challenger in 2024 is too big a risk.

The Democrats demur in Arizona's primary drama

What to make of a challenge from the left against Sen. Kyrsten Sinema? Let's see how many potential voters donate to Rep. Ruben Gallego.

LZ GRANDERSON

I FIRST HEARD rumors about Rep. Ruben Gallego challenging Sen. Kyrsten Sinema within small political circles in Arizona last summer. Liberal discontent for Sinema reached my ears much earlier. Years ago.

In fact, it wasn't long after Sinema became the country's first openly bisexual senator, in 2019, that local LGBTQ grassroots leaders began noticing it was getting more difficult to get Sinema to make appearances at queer events. The community's frustration spilled over last year after she refused to end the filibuster on two voting rights bills. More than 100 LGBTQ leaders and allies in Arizona sent a joint letter to the Human Rights Campaign demanding that the national LGBTQ civil rights organization withdraw its support of Sinema. In December, Sinema quit the Democratic Party and declared herself an independent.

So as you can see, Gallego's announcement on Monday that he would challenge Sinema in the Democratic primary has been somewhat of a slow train coming. Funny thing is, while having a Democrat officially challenge Sinema puts the national party in an awkward situation, it's actually the frustrated liberals in Arizona who are now on the clock.

I'll explain.

The deadline to report all of the money a candidate receives and spends in the first quarter is April 15, but the books close March 31. That leaves Gallego and his supporters a little more than two months to raise enough money to prove there's either enthusiasm for him or enough blue anger at Sinema to warrant national resources. And it can't just be big checks from outsiders. There needs to be proof that there would be votes as well as dollars. As one political operative told me, national leaders will be focusing more on the small checks from local residents to gauge how viable Gallego's chances are before deciding how to back him.

And if his first-quarter numbers are strong, the national party will have to back him, which will undoubtedly affect how the incumbent maneuvers in the Senate. Though keep in mind, Sinema has yet to announce she's even seeking reelection. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer wouldn't say whether he would endorse her if she did. Senate Democratic Whip Richard J. Durbin wouldn't say either. Neither would Gary Peters, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

If this were baseball, she would be out. But this is politics, and Gallego, while liked, isn't necessarily known around the state for fundraising prowess, I'm told. So, national Democrats aren't being coy as much as patient. They really don't have to say anything until the wallets in Arizona do first.

Besides, this whole dynamic is new to all of us.

While we have independents besides Sinema in the Senate now, Maine and Vermont don't have nearly as many variables to negotiate, starting with race. Maine and Vermont are more than 95% white. Nearly a third of Arizonans are Latino. Indigenous and Black make up an additional 11%. Then there's the politics surrounding the border — and I'm not talking about the Canadian one. But the biggest variable is size. Of the 4.3 million registered voters in the state, a third are independents.

Like Sinema.

Republicans are first and Democrats are actually third on the list.

So the math gets complicated quickly for national Democrats. Whatever they do, they don't want to set up a general election contest in which an election-denying Republican has a shot at the seat.

This is why the Federal Election Commission quarterly report is so instrumental in determining the party's next move. The amount of local money going to Gallego — or another challenger — provides clarity. Unless there is a measurable indication that liberal voters in Arizona are really ready to move on from Sinema, why would Schumer and company speak against her during the primary and alienate a potential ally?

And remember, Gallego must prove he's a viable candidate not only against Sinema but also against whatever Republican might emerge to face him.

But who knows, in the end Sinema may decide she could be more effective (and better paid) out of office, clearing the path for a more traditional general election race. Her profile has been raised, and her expertise will be sought. She may see the lukewarm liberal support and daunting path to reelection and decide she'd rather make time to appear at some of those queer events again.

Why Californians weren't expecting weeks of downpours

Climate models, reliable when forecasting dry periods, need work to better predict wet weather.

By Ned Kleiner

LOS ANGELES International Airport recorded 5 inches of rain during the entire 2020-2021 rainfall season. In 2023, that much rain fell in the first two weeks of January. This boom-and-bust cycle of precipitation is normal — climate scientists call it "internal variability" and it is described in the biblical story of Joseph, who predicted seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. But that doesn't make it any less destructive. In the Bible, Joseph's divination helped the Egyptians plan for the lean years by stockpiling grain, and in the modern world we rely upon climate models to help engineers and water managers prepare for both drought and deluge.

When it comes to dry spells, these models are fairly reliable: Researchers have been predicting longer and drier droughts in the Southwest for more than a decade. The downpours, however, have proved much more challenging to forecast; as recently as mid-November, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's three-month outlook still predicted below-average winter precipitation in Southern California.

Why is it so much more difficult for climate models to accurately predict rain? To begin with, there's what's known as the "drizzle problem." Climate models have been calibrated to produce roughly the right *total* amount of rain, but they do so by forecasting too much light rain and almost no heavy rain. In addition, atmospheric rivers tend to be long, thin bands of wet air (hence the comparison to actual rivers), which is exactly the sort of shape that models struggle with the most.

Climate models also have inherent biases — ways in which we can observe that their predictions do not match observations. These are particularly pronounced when it comes to the high-level winds that guide the track of the atmospheric river, leading to incorrect trajectories. Finally, recent research has suggested links between atmospheric rivers and two oscillations in the atmosphere that carry energy and moisture to the West Coast from as far away as the Indian Ocean and as high as the stratosphere. However, today's climate models have inaccurate or even nonexistent versions of these oscillations, meaning that an important cause of atmospheric rivers is completely missing from our simulations.

Of course, there are many things that climate models get right — over the last 50 years they have proved to be overwhelmingly accurate at predicting global-scale phenomena such as increasing temperatures, longer droughts and melting ice sheets. But the fact that they are so good at these sorts of forecasts means that less attention gets paid to equally important local questions that remain unanswered such as: Should we prepare for increased flooding along the Sacramento River? Will we continue to see elevated tree mortality in Sequoia National Forest? How much earlier in the year will Sierra Nevada snowpack be depleted?

Just as climate models have inherent biases, so too do policymakers — it is easier to prepare for a predictable threat than an unpredictable one, and so money and resources gravitate toward the problems that we know are coming.

The primary cause for these gaps in knowledge at the local level is something called coarse model resolution. Global climate models divide the Earth's atmosphere into grid boxes that measure about 60 miles across, meaning that the model predicts the same climate on top of Mt. Baldy as it does in Joshua Tree. This kind of coarse modeling results in a cascade of problems. The model cannot capture individual mountains, so it flattens out peaks and valleys into a series of plateaus, making a mess of wind speed predictions. Pollution plumes that should be narrow are instead dispersed too quickly across large areas, and it is much harder to predict precipitation when your grid box is much larger than the size of a cloud.

These problems can be reduced by embedding a smaller, finer model within a large coarse one, enabling much more accurate local forecasts. One reason this approach has not been more widely used is the cost; adding local models is more computationally expensive and need to be repeated for each area of interest.

In September, the Biden administration released the PREPARE action plan to spur climate resilience, which includes a pledge to "work with Congress to provide $3 billion in adaptation finance annually." If this funding does come through, it is important that some of it be set aside for boosting the field of regional modeling so that we can better allocate the rest of the package. That said, producing more local models is not a silver bullet, mostly because there really isn't such a thing as a "regional atmosphere." For example, when the model smooths out the Rocky Mountains, that affects its predictions of the climate in Denver as well as in places as far away as London.

As climate change affects the atmosphere and weather patterns, all of humanity is now witness to a global science experiment, one that even our best predictions will never fully capture. These recent atmospheric rivers serve as a reminder that models are not infallible and that moving forward our society and infrastructure will be challenged in ways we haven't yet anticipated.

NED KLEINER is a PhD candidate at Harvard studying atmospheric science.

A reversal of cancel culture on campus?

Harvard and Hamline have undone two recent cases of reflexive censure. Here's hoping they start a trend.

ROBIN ABCARIAN

I THOUGHT MY mind was playing tricks on me when I first read that Kenneth Roth, who led Human Rights Watch for three decades, had been disinvited to a fellowship at Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights.

That cannot be right, I thought: A man who has spent his adult life crusading against human rights abuses was judged to be a bad match for an institution devoted to advancing human rights around the world?

But yes, as it turned out, after Roth had accepted an invitation to a yearlong fellowship at Harvard during which he planned to write a book, the Kennedy School's dean, Doug Elmendorf, nixed the arrangement.

Why? Because, according to people who spoke with Elmendorf, Human Rights Watch has an "anti-Israel bias." The Nation, which broke the story, said it was unclear who exactly had raised objections to Roth's appointment. The speculation is that deep-pocketed, pro-Israel donors had their thumbs on the scale, and Elmendorf folded. That would be a shame.

Human Rights Watch turns out reams of reports about repressive regimes — Sudan, North Korea, Iraq. It has criticized China, Saudi Arabia and, at times, the United States. In a 2021 report, the group declared that Israel commits the crime of apartheid against Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. A 2022 report by Amnesty International came to a similar conclusion.

Obviously, this angered some American pro-Israel groups, like the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, which have accused HRW of antisemitism. (Last summer in the New York Times, Peter Beinart explored how Jewish groups have conflated criticism of Israel with antisemitism, which thwarts conversation about Israel's mistreatment of Palestinians.)

In any case, Human Rights Watch has also addressed abuses by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

And regardless of how you feel about criticism of Israel, or the painful roots of the world's only Jewish state, repressing speech by withdrawing a fellowship offer is going to outrage those who value diverse viewpoints and academic freedom. The ACLU was among the many groups calling for Harvard to reinstate Roth's fellowship. "Few people have done more to advance human rights than Kenneth Roth," its executive director, Anthony D. Romero, said. "We urge Harvard to reverse its decision."

Indeed, the loud outcry (which included calls for Elmendorf's resignation) led Harvard to change its mind about Roth, a Jewish man whose father escaped Nazi Germany in 1938. He will be taking his talents to Harvard after all.

It's a happy outcome, I suppose, although as Roth and others wondered, what might the outcome have been for someone less connected, less celebrated?

"Most academics, and certainly students, wouldn't be able to gather as much momentum behind their cause," noted the New Statesman.

That's true. And that's why I'm encouraged to think this disturbing tide of reflexive censure may be turning just a bit.

An obscure art history professor who was let go from Hamline University in Minnesota recently after showing her students images of the prophet Muhammad has become something of a cause célèbre after her case went public.

Adjunct professor Erika López Prater was well aware that some Muslims object to seeing images of the prophet, so she warned students in her class syllabus and during the class just before she showed what she described as two "reverential" images made by Muslim artists for Muslim patrons.

"I told my students if they didn't feel comfortable engaging visually, they were free to do what made most sense to them," she said in an interview that was broadcast on YouTube. "I tried to empower them."

But one Muslim student, said López Prater, "thought that the warnings that I had provided to the class didn't even matter because she believed that images of the prophet Muhammad should never been shown, full stop, even if those are pedagogically relevant images that are primary source documents from history."

After the student complained, the school's vice president of inclusive excellence declared that showing the image was "undeniably inconsiderate, disrespectful and Islamophobic."

He also said at the time that "respect for observant Muslim students in that classroom should have superseded academic freedom."

This generated a tremendous outcry both in academia and news outlets. The idea that López Prater had violated her duty to respect her students was outlandish, given the many warnings she gave.

According to a discrimination and defamation lawsuit that López Prater filed in Minnesota state court last week, an offer to teach another Hamline course next spring — which she had accepted — was revoked. (Shades of Harvard's mistreatment of Roth.)

Just after López Prater filed her lawsuit, the school emailed a statement to reporters saying that it had made a mistake.

"Like all organizations, sometimes we misstep," said the email, signed by Ellen Watters, chair of the university's board of trustees, and Hamline President Fayneese Miller. "We have determined that our usage of the term 'Islamophobic' was … flawed."

Just as in the case of Dean Elmendorf at Harvard, there have now been demands for Miller's resignation. On Tuesday, the Sahan Journal reported, an overwhelming percentage of full-time Hamline faculty — 86% — voted to ask her to resign.

"The reputation of Hamline was deeply tarnished," the president of the Hamline University Faculty Council told the newspaper, a nonprofit digital venture that reports on immigrants and communities of color in Minnesota.

It's sad that it took national outcries for Harvard and Hamline to reverse course on what were, in fact, terrible decisions.

As far as I can tell from voluminous coverage of both the Harvard and Hamline controversies, neither institution has actually issued public apologies to the professionals who were harmed. They really ought to, though.

Among the many rules of common sense that these institutions of higher learning seem to have forgotten in the rush to placate critics: When you are in the wrong, apologize to those you've offended or hurt.

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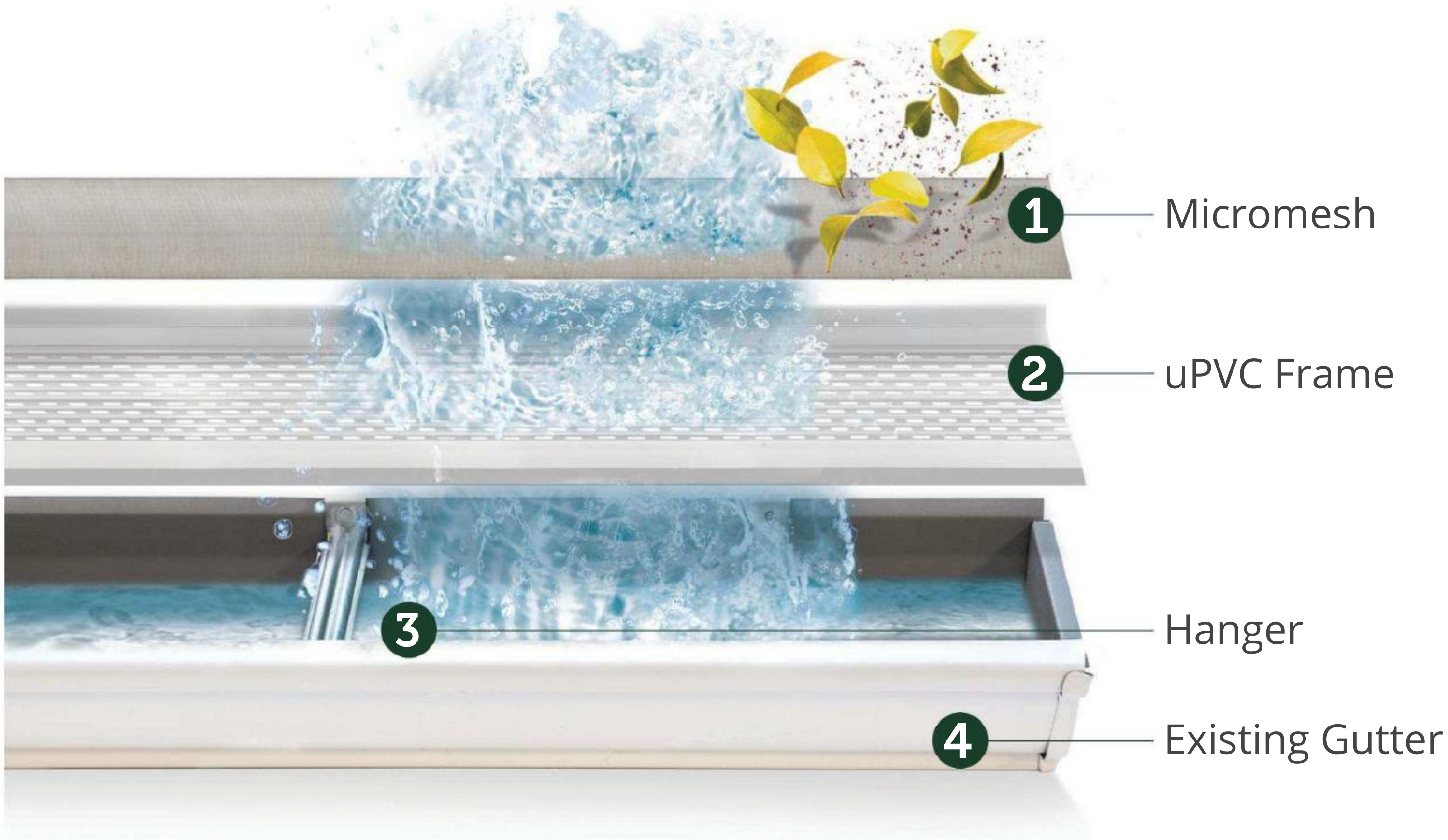

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Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

OFFICIALS on Sunday investigate the scene in Monterey Park where a gunman opened fire at a ballroom dance studio the night before. Official notification that a gunman was on the loose came during a news conference about five hours after the shooting.

After shooting, asking why

Questions arise over how long it took police to say the gunman was at large.

By Richard Winton,
Hannah Fry,
Brittny Mejia
and Noah Goldberg

As the investigation into the Monterey Park mass shooting continues, police officials are facing scrutiny over how long it took them to notify the public that the gunman was still on the loose.

For roughly five hours after 72-year-old Huu Can Tran opened fire inside Star Ballroom Dance Studio on West Garvey Avenue and fled late Saturday night, Monterey Park and Los Angeles County authorities made no announcements about the gunman's location.

Instead, the death toll and the gunman's escape in the chaos were revealed through government sources in other agencies and radio broadcasts.

Authorities say Tran opened fire about 10:20 p.m. Saturday, killing 11 and wounding nine other people. The first 911 calls were made about 10:22 p.m., and police arrived at the studio within four minutes.

About 20 minutes after the rampage in Monterey Park, the shooter walked into Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in nearby Alhambra. Brandon Tsay, 26, con-

[See **Warning,** B4]

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

BEATRICE CAMARILLO of Los Angeles brings flowers to a makeshift memorial for victims of the shooting at a dance studio in Monterey Park.

'One of my own': Asian community's deep grief

ERIKA D. SMITH

Chuching Wang, president of the Taiwan Benevolent Assn. of California, squinted into the lights of about a dozen TV cameras and spoke softly, deliberately.

"How could this happen in my Monterey Park?" he asked, shaking his head of graying hair. "We are so proud to be a model minority."

It was 7:40 p.m. Monday and a crowd of more than 100 had gathered for the first of several vigils planned for this week, as people try to make sense of a mass shooting that left 11 dead and nine wounded in the heart of Southern California's Chinese American community.

Authorities say that Huu Can Tran, 72, barged into the Star Ballroom Dance Studio on the eve of Lunar New Year and opened fire on Asian American grandparents and parents in their 50s, 60s and 70s — and then tried to do the same at Lai Lai Ballroom in Alhambra before fleeing. There's plenty of speculation, including that Tran had been driven by jealousy over a woman, but his exact

[See **Smith,** B5]

For loved ones, it 'doesn't feel real'

Many share memories, grief over 11 who died in an attack at a studio that felt like home.

By Summer Lin,
Grace Toohey,
Christi Carras
and Marisa Gerber

They were the lifeblood of the Star Ballroom Dance Studio.

Cherished parents and adoring grandparents, storytellers and skilled connectors whose collective love for line dancing, tango and karaoke transformed them into pillars of a community that was, to many, like a second home.

And then, in a few terrifying moments this weekend, they were stolen.

The 11 victims killed in a massacre at the ballroom this weekend — all of whom were publicly identified Tuesday — were Xiujuan Yu, 57; Hongying Jian, 62; Lilan Li, 63; Wen-Tau Yu, 64; Mymy Nhan, 65; Muoi Dai Ung, 67; Valentino Marcos

[See **Mourning,** B3]

Who will be GOP's national leader?

California attorney Harmeet Dhillon is in the running for the post of RNC chair.

By Seema Mehta

Mounting frustration over GOP electoral losses has incited a contentious leadership battle that pits a prominent California Republican against the party's national leader.

The effort by San Francisco attorney Harmeet Dhillon, whose clients include former President Trump, to oust Republican National Committee Chair Ronna Romney McDaniel will be decided at a party meeting in Dana Point that begins Wednesday.

Both women are ardent, vocal Trump supporters — a reflection of the grip the former president still has on the party more than two years after losing the White House. Both have pledged to remain neutral in the 2024 GOP presidential primary if elected as chair.

McDaniel, the niece of Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), is widely viewed as having the edge in the race. But Dhillon, a longtime state party leader, has received the support of prominent conservatives, including Fox News personality Tucker Carlson, in a contest that has been laced with what appeared to be calculated attacks about Dhillon's Sikh faith and McDaniel's role in the party's subpar performance in recent elections.

Some committee members are concerned that the increasingly ugly infighting could affect the party's prospects and hope McDaniel and Dhillon can make peace, regardless of the outcome.

"They've both got to talk and agree that whoever wins, the other one's going to say the right things and do the right things," said Mississippi committee member Henry Barbour. The nephew of former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour declined to say whom he will vote for. "If we at the RNC can't come together, how can we expect voters to come together?" he asked.

A surprise victory by Dhillon would breathe life into a moribund California Republican Party that in recent decades has dwindled into political irrelevance and would follow closely behind Bakersfield Republican Kevin McCarthy's narrow victory to become speaker of the House. The ascension of California Republicans to the pinnacle of the national political universe would go a long way toward salving the sting of the party's failure to win any statewide election since 2006.

"Harmeet has more of a shot than what the public expectations are," said Tim

[See **RNC,** B2]

For seniors, social isolation a debilitating burden

Problem will only worsen as population ages

STEVE LOPEZ

The smell of perfumed smoke turned my head Tuesday morning outside the Monterey Park dance club where 11 people were gunned down Saturday night. A man named Scott, seated in a wheelchair, was lighting incense sticks to honor the dead.

"What else can we do?" asked Scott, 57, who requested that I not use his last name. He told me he's Chinese, he was born in Vietnam, and he was disabled years ago by a stroke.

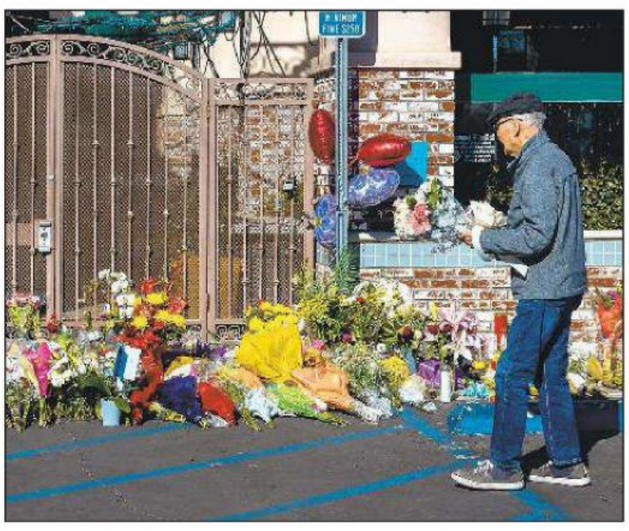
Even before all the wreaths were laid in Monterey Park, along with a sign that says "ban semi-automatic rifles," the same question was being asked in Half Moon Bay, where seven people were gunned down. Few details about that shooter were immediately available.

But we know that the 72-year-old responsible for the Monterey Park massacre — who is believed to have taken his own life — lived alone in Hemet, according to news

[See **Lopez,** B4]

GOLDEN STATE

California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His new column will focus on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults.



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

SLUI KHAU brings flowers for the victims of the mass shooting at a Monterey Park dance studio.

Man is killed on the set of music video

Gunfire during filming in Oakland leaves an 18-year-old dead and four others wounded. **B3**

Flooding closes stretch of PCH

Tidal surge and high surf send water across portion of road in Huntington Beach. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Helene Elliott mulls Mikaela Shiffrin's spot in ski history. **B10**

S.F. attorney seeks GOP leadership post

[**RNC,** from B1]

Miller, a former advisor to GOP presidential candidates who worked at the RNC but left the party in 2020. "The smart money is on Ronna. ... Ronna knows all these people, she's been working the inside game for years, which is a huge advantage. But Harmeet has tapped into legitimate frustration with the RNC."

The task ahead for the next RNC chair, who will lead the party during the 2024 presidential election, will not be easy. Republican activists and donors are exasperated by Democrats' success in the 2018 midterm election, the loss of the White House in 2020 and their inability to take control of the Senate and narrow win in the House of Representatives last year, when most analysts predicted a red wave.

Dhillon said these upsets, as well as McDaniel's decision to seek an unprecedented fourth term, prompted her bid to lead the party. To rebound, she said, the party must promote the use of mail ballots, counter Democratic efforts to boost weak candidates in GOP primaries and provide smarter messaging to young and minority voters.

"There are a lot of changes that need to be made for us to be in fighting shape to win in '24," Dhillon said. "I'm tired of Republicans losing elections."

Born in India, Dhillon, 54, and her family immigrated to Britain, then to New York City, before settling in rural North Carolina. Her parents registered as Republicans after they became naturalized citizens, in part because of the disdain her father, an orthopedic surgeon, had for trial lawyers because of medical malpractice lawsuits. They were also driven by the persecution of Sikhs in India, which was decried by Republican Jesse Helms, at the time a senator from North Carolina. Dhillon's parents hosted fundraisers for Helms.

After law school, Dhillon settled in San Francisco. She became active in Bay Area politics after hosting debate watch parties during President George W. Bush's reelection campaign in 2004 and was elected vice chair of the state GOP in 2013. Three years later, she was elected as one of California's three representatives on the Republican National Committee, on which she has served ever since.

Dhillon and her law firm's prominence grew exponentially during the Trump administration and the COVID-19 pandemic. She frequently appears on conservative media, and her firm has filed lawsuits over conservative rights on college campuses, pandemic restrictions and other causes dear to Republican voters. This month, a nonprofit she founded sued a California school district for allegedly helping transition an elementary school student to another gender without informing her parents.

Michael Conroy Associated Press

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE Chair Ronna Romney McDaniel faces a challenge this week from Harmeet Dhillon, 54, of San Francisco.

"Harmeet's tough; she has not been afraid of challenging incumbents," said Ron Nehring, a former state party chair. "She's very action-oriented, and it has worked to her benefit."

Dhillon was a delegate for Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) in the 2016 presidential election until he dropped out, at which point she joined her husband, Sarvjit Randhawa, as a Trump delegate.

Her tactics, particularly her work on behalf of election deniers such as Trump, have been criticized. Her law firm represented the former president during the congressional hearings over the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. In the aftermath of the 2022 raid of Mar-a-Lago, Dhillon called the leadership of the FBI "thoroughly corrupt" and said the bureau and the Department of Justice had "engaged in elaborate meddling in multiple elections now over the last couple of elections."

She also accused federal authorities of concealing President Biden's handling of classified documents to influence the outcome of the 2022 election.

Dhillon raised money for Trump's legal efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, telling followers on Twitter to "STOP THE STEAL" and encouraging them to chip in to Trump's election defense fund. She also represented failed Arizona gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake, an election denier who may appear on Dhillon's behalf at this week's meeting.

Trump chose McDaniel to be RNC chair after he was elected in 2016 and endorsed her for reelection twice. But he has publicly stayed neutral in the contest between McDaniel and Dhillon.

"I can honestly say I like both of them," he said last week on the podcast "The Water Cooler." "Let them fight it out."

Both candidates argue that the contest is being influenced by consultants who want lucrative contracts with the RNC. But the ugliest controversy in the race centers on religion.

Dhillon received national attention when she sang a Sikh invocation at the 2016 GOP convention. She and her allies allege that McDaniel supporters are undermining her candidacy by saying that Dhillon would jeopardize the party's focus on religious freedom because she is not Christian; this included sharing a video of her delivering the Sikh prayer in Punjabi.

"I was shocked, disappointed and frankly disgusted that someone was willing to use bigotry as a tactic to whip votes for their preferred candidate," North Dakota committee member Lori Hinz, a Dhillon supporter, emailed fellow committee members Thursday. She said she was urged by a McDaniel ally not to support Dhillon because of her religion.

The attacks on Dhillon's faith echo those lobbed against her when she successfully ran for vice chair of the California Republican Party in 2013 — the convention hall was strewn with fliers that called her a "Taj Mahal princess," and rivals whispered that she would slaughter a goat at the dais during meetings.

McDaniel, whose representatives did not respond to requests for comment, has denounced the slurs. She noted that she is Mormon, also a faith that has long been attacked.

"I wholeheartedly condemn religious bigotry in any form," McDaniel said in a Fox News Digital article published Friday. "We are the party of faith, family and freedom, and these attacks have no place in our party or our politics. As a member of a minority faith myself, I would never condone such attacks."

McDaniel, 49, is the former leader of the Michigan Republican Party. She stopped using her maiden name, Romney, once she became RNC chair, reportedly because Trump asked her to, according to the Washington Post. Sen. Mitt Romney has been fiercely critical of Trump, who has labeled him a loser.

The contest will be decided by a majority vote of the RNC's 168 committee members. McDaniel released a list of more than 100 members who support her, backing that should guarantee her reelection. Dhillon declined to say how many members back her bid.

Among McDaniel's supporters is Iowa GOP Chair Jeff Kaufmann, who praised her support of keeping his state's caucus as the nation's first Republican presidential voting contest in 2024 and pushed back at criticism of her over the party's performance last year.

"The RNC chair doesn't pick candidates and deals with what's handed to them," Kaufmann said, pointing to victories in his state and others.

Dhillon's fellow California RNC members — state party Chair Jessica Millan Patterson and Shawn Steel, husband of Orange County Republican Rep. Michelle Steel — are also backing McDaniel. Neither responded to requests for comment.

MyPillow founder Mike Lindell, an ardent Trump supporter and conspiracy theorist, is also running for chair. He is expected to have marginal support at the RNC meeting this week at the Waldorf Astoria.

A private candidate forum is scheduled for Wednesday evening, and the chair vote is expected to take place Friday.

The vote is cast by secret ballot, Nehring notes.

"Typically, the vote tally for an incumbent is highest on the first ballot. If they cannot make it on the first ballot, it's unlikely they win on a subsequent ballot," he said. "The election is a referendum on the incumbent."

Lottery results

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Tonight's Powerball Jackpot:
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For Monday, Jan. 23, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

12-31-47-58-60—**Powerball 23**
Jackpot: $502 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	0	—
4 + P-ball	0	—
4	69	$420
3 + P-ball	171	$176
3	4,235	$8
2 + P-ball	3,644	$9
1 + P-ball	28,488	$5
P-ball only	69,246	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

33-41-47-50-62—**Mega 20**
Jackpot: $31 million

Fantasy Five: 9-19-21-33-36

Daily Four: 6-6-1-4

Daily Three (midday): 7-6-9

Daily Three (evening): 8-0-8

Daily Derby:
(10) Solid Gold
(11) Money Bags
(9) Winning Spirit
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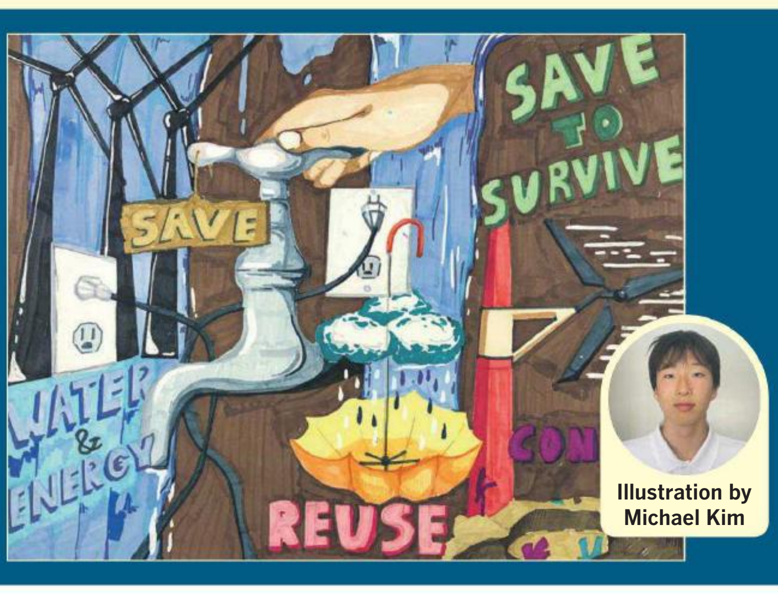

Illustration by Michael Kim

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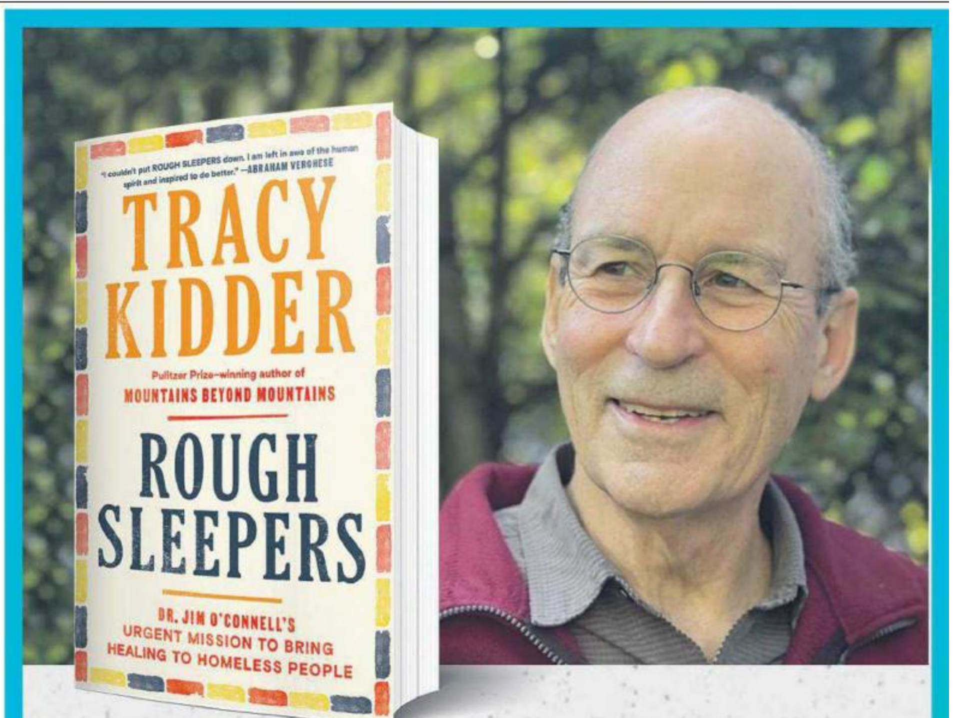
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ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

A MOURNER kneels before a row of markers for the 11 people killed Saturday night at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park. "We never even got a chance to properly say goodbye," one relative said.

Struggling to make sense of studio attack

[**Mourning,** from B1]

Alvero, 68; Diana Man Ling Tom, 70; Yu-Lun Kao, 72; Ming Wei Ma, 72; and Chia Ling Yau, 76.

Nine others were injured in the Saturday attack at the ballroom, where people had gathered for a dance party to celebrate the Lunar New Year in Monterey Park, the heart of the region's Chinese and Asian American diaspora.

The gunman was identified by police as a 72-year-old Hemet man, who investigators say frequented the Star Ballroom, as well as a second dance hall in Alhambra, which he busted into 20 minutes after the shooting. The suspect, who was disarmed by a man working the front desk at Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio and fled from the second studio, according to authorities, shot himself to death the next day as police approached his van in a Torrance parking lot.

Authorities were still working to determine a motive, as families and friends of the victims tried to fathom why anyone would target a venue that stood only for generosity and joy.

Valentino Marcos Alvero's life was defined by a zest for new connections and a fierce devotion to family.

He was, according to a statement from his relatives, a loving father, dedicated son, doting grandfather, generous uncle and a ballroom dance disciple. He relished learning people's stories and, in return, he shared freely about his own life with such enthusiasm that people couldn't help but laugh along with his tales.

"The life of any party," his family wrote.

Siu Fong, who runs a Monday karaoke class at the Star Ballroom, said she sometimes saw Alvero at karaoke gatherings at a local senior center. He didn't know Mandarin, she said, but still made a point to listen to songs on YouTube and memorize them — once, she said, he performed a Mandarin duet with another singer.

"He sang the song perfectly," Fong recalled. "A very strong voice."

According to the Philippine consulate general in Los Angeles, Alvero was Filipino American, and his family described him as a devout Catholic. In its statement, the family lamented he had not received his last rites, a sacrament administered before death, and asked priests and fellow Catholics to pray for him by his full name, as well as for the other victims.

Like Alvero, Yu-Lun Kao spent as much time as he could on the dance floor.

He danced Saturdays at the Star Ballroom and Sundays at Lai Lai, according to his longtime dance partner, who survived the attack and identified herself by only her first name, Shally.

She met Kao 15 years ago and often called him up when she had free time. He went by Andy, but she nicknamed him "Mr. Nice" for his generosity and willingness to dance with less skilled newcomers.

"Andy, I'm at the ballroom now," she'd tell him, and he'd come right away. "Any hour we had time, we never wasted. Dancing makes you happy."

One time, she recalled, she and her husband went to a steakhouse with Kao, who promptly disappeared from their table. They soon found he'd joined a private party in the restaurant, dancing with the people he'd just met.

On Tuesday, neighbors who had grown accustomed to seeing Hongying Jian — known to friends as Nancy — outside her home were struggling to make sense of the attack.

Jian enjoyed playing volleyball, singing, dancing and playing the piano, said her next-door neighbor, Serena Liu, 33, of San Gabriel. Jian often offered to make her food, she said.

"She used to say she can make friends with anyone," she said.

Another neighbor said that she and Jian had bonded over their love for plants — they often exchanged pots, she said.

Xiujuan Yu had been celebrating with friends Saturday night when the shooter opened fire, according to her niece, Kathleen Fong.

"After days of uncertainty, anxiety, and waiting in worry, we received the news that my aunt was indeed among the deceased," Fong wrote on a GoFundMe fundraiser.

Her aunt emigrated from China in 2010 with her husband and three children and was eager to "craft a new future for their little family," Fong wrote. For years, she said, her aunt and uncle worked long hours in a variety of labor-intensive jobs to piece together enough to make ends meet and save for their children's educations.

Two of Yu's children — twins — are pursuing degrees in sports medicine and kinesiology at California State universities, Fong wrote, adding, "She will never be able to witness what she dreamed of for all these years."

"This still doesn't feel real," Fong added. "We never even got a chance to properly say goodbye."

Like Yu, Diana Man Ling Tom had planned to ring in the Lunar New Year by dancing alongside her friends.

She was, according to a statement released by her family, a hardworking mother, wife and grandmother who "always went out of her way to give to others."

In their statement, they condemned "this senseless act of violence" and asked people to consider donating to a fund to help cover costs for Tom's funeral.

Tom, who died of her injuries Sunday, was among four victims of the shooting treated at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. Two other survivors — a 73-year-old woman and 54-year-old man — were released from the hospital this week.

The final patient remains hospitalized in critical condition, a hospital official said Tuesday.

After immigrating to the U.S. with his wife, Ming Wei Ma — who a friend said was once part of a well-known dance group in China — carved out a hybrid role at the Star Ballroom. He managed the studio, but also took classes himself.

Known to friends as Mr. Ma, several former students and fellow instructors said he went out of his way to encourage others.

Yvonne Yiu, the former mayor of Monterey Park, started taking lessons at Star Ballroom three decades ago and described Ma as a talented and positive teacher.

They sang and performed a duet together on the first day she met him, Yiu said, adding that Ma's favorite song was titled "Please Follow Me."

"Eventually I would like to follow you to heaven," she said, "and sing and dance with you again."

On the webpage of a fundraiser set up to cover funeral costs, dozens of people left messages for Ma and his children.

Mymy Nhan's relatives said in interviews that they would remember her for her love of dance, fashion and family.

"She was always such a good supporter for all of us," said Allen Nhan, her nephew. He lives in Texas now, but as a boy, he said, he loved catching up with his aunt at family get-togethers including Lunar New Year.

"She was always checking in on progress, whether it be high school, basketball games, or now that I have a son, it's always a constant checking up on us and seeing how we are," he said.

Since the shooting, he said, he has spent time watching videos of her twirling along the ballroom floor.

"That's such a cool community," he said, "to have people come together and be able to do something that they love."

Times staff writers Brittny Mejia, Hayley Smith, Jeong Park and Nathan Solis contributed to this report.

Man slain on set of music video

Gunfire during filming in Oakland leaves an 18-year-old dead and four others wounded.

By Christian Martinez

A music video recording turned deadly Monday night in Oakland after gunfire erupted amid filming, killing an 18-year-old man and injuring four others, city police officials said.

The incident comes after mass shootings killed more than two dozen people in California within a single week.

It was reported just after 6 p.m. on MacArthur Boulevard in Oakland, where police were alerted by the ShotSpotter program to the sound of gunfire. ShotSpotter is a gunshot detection system that uses noise sensors.

Officers found spent casings at the scene but no victims. Shortly afterward, however, multiple gunshot victims were reported at Oakland-area hospitals.

One person, identified as 18-year-old Mario Navarro, died from his injuries.

According to Oakland police, 40 to 50 people were on MacArthur Boulevard filming a music video.

"While the recording was occurring, gunfire broke out from multiple shooters in various directions," acting Oakland Police Chief Darren Allison said Tuesday at a news conference.

A total of five people, including Navarro, were hit by gunfire, Allison said.

Three other people were injured in a car crash as they tired to flee the scene.

The shooting victims ranged in age from 15 to 63.

One round struck a neighboring business, Allison said.

"We are looking into the possibility of a gang or group connection with this incident," Allison said.

"We have a good sense of involved parties, as far as groups and gangs," the police chief said. "We're not prepared to release that at this time."

Allison called the mass shooting incidents a "tragic trend," invoking the shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay.

"Last night, this trend was experienced, sadly, closer to home," he said.

Flooding closes stretch of PCH

Tidal surge and high surf push water across portion of road in Huntington Beach.

By Sara Cardine

City of Huntington Beach

A PARKING LOT near Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach is flooded from a tidal surge Tuesday morning that also shut down a part of the road.

A combination of tidal surge and high surf conditions Tuesday morning caused Caltrans to close a stretch of Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach that has already been closed four times so far this month.

Motorists were alerted to the closure — from Warner Avenue to Seapoint Street — shortly before 11 a.m., after water crossed over Huntington State Beach and flooded a parking lot before infiltrating both northbound and southbound lanes.

Angela Madison, a spokeswoman for Caltrans District 12, said that although cleanup crews were working to remove debris, a full reopening of lanes would not be likely before the evening drive time.

"We're working around the clock to make sure we can get the highway opened as soon as possible," Madison said. "If Mother Nature doesn't exacerbate the circumstances, tomorrow afternoon is our worst-case scenario."

Huntington Beach public affairs manager Jennifer Carey said city officials received notification of the closure around 10:45 a.m. Local water levels were recorded at 5.9 feet above mean tide.

"It went over the beach, through a parking lot and pushed water down onto PCH," she said, indicating the situation was ongoing. "When a set comes in, it doesn't happen all at once — it maintains those surges for sometimes an hour."

The high tide, combined with high surf, created conditions that did not bode well for that section of the PCH, Madison and Carey said.

"No one anticipated the perfect storm, no pun intended, that there would be a high tide along with a storm surge," Madison said.

The same stretch of road from Warner Avenue south to Seapoint Street was closed on Jan. 5 due to unusually high rain, Carey confirmed Tuesday. Although the highway was reopened the morning of Jan. 6, it was closed again later that day, that time due to a similar tidal event.

Two more closures were announced Jan. 10 and 14, prior to Tuesday's surge.

"It's always the same area," Carey said of the problem spot well-known by locals.

The city's Main Beach, which has a wider stretch of sand than Huntington State Beach, withstood Tuesday's tides and did not see water encroachment.

Carey said a portion of Pacific Coast Highway near Sunset Beach saw some incursion but added the bulk of the surge was held back by a berm.

Cars traveling north on Pacific Coast Highway Tuesday afternoon were being turned away at Seapoint and redirected eastward to northbound lanes of Edwards Street and then back onto Warner Avenue. Madison urged motorists to heed all warnings.

"Slow down, obey our signs and do not drive beyond our detour signs and boundaries," she advised.

2nd possible cause in cliff crash weighed

By Noah Goldberg

Prosecutors who are investigating whether the driver of a Tesla intentionally crashed the car three weeks ago off the side of Highway 1, nearly killing his family members, are now also exploring whether mechanical problems could have caused the incident, the San Mateo County district attorney told The Times.

The driver of the white Tesla, Dharmesh Patel, was initially arrested by California Highway Patrol on suspicion of attempted murder and child endangerment for allegedly purposefully driving his wife and two children off the highway at an area called Devil's Slide in Northern California. But Dist. Atty. Steve Wagstaffe said his office is also investigating whether the crash could have been caused by an issue with the car.

"Did the brakes fail? Were the brakes working? Were there any other mechanical malfunctions that would have led to him not being able to stop the vehicle?" Wagstaffe said in an interview. "We're having the car looked at from top to bottom."

Prosecutors are still in the early stages of the investigation, Wagstaffe said.

After examining the case, investigators with the California Highway Patrol "developed probable cause to believe this incident was an intentional act" and placed Patel under arrest, the CHP said in a statement at the time of the arrest.

Patel remains hospitalized.

The crash occurred Jan. 2 when Patel was driving the car with his wife, Neha, and their two children, ages 4 and 7. The family survived the 250- to 300-foot fall, but the celebration of their rescue quickly darkened when Patel was arrested at Stanford Hospital, where he was being treated for injuries sustained in the crash.

Patel has since been moved to San Mateo Medical Center, Wagstaffe said.

The case alarmed neighbors, who knew the Patels as an "idyllic" family that lived at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac in Pasadena.

Why a warning took hours

[**Warning,** from B1]
fronted him in the studio's lobby and wrested a semiautomatic MAC-10 assault weapon away from Tran before watching him flee in a white van.

The shooting — one of the worst in Los Angeles County history — unfolded on the eve of Lunar New Year, just hours after the streets in Monterey Park had been filled with thousands of revelers celebrating one of the largest holiday events in the region.

L.A. County Sheriff Robert Luna said during a news conference Monday that in the hours following the shooting, authorities were trying to weigh assisting victims, investigating the scene and apprehending the suspect.

"When we started putting out public information, the priority was to get this person into custody, so we were very strategic in the way we were putting out information," he said. "Ultimately, it worked."

At 2:48 a.m., the L.A. County Sheriff's Information Bureau issued an advisory confirming fatalities and noting the suspect was a man. But the alert didn't mention he was not in custody.

Official notification came around 3:30 a.m. — about five hours after Tran opened fire inside the dance hall — during a news conference. L.A. County Sheriff's Capt. Andrew Meyer told reporters the "suspect fled the scene and remains outstanding."

Horace Frank, a former assistant chief at the Los Angeles Police Department, said typically an agency's first inclination would be to notify the public when a mass shooter is at large.

"It is a public safety issue," he said. "The only time you don't do that is when you can articulate specific reasons otherwise. You always err on the side of keeping the public informed."

Frank, who oversaw counter-terrorism and tactical operations at LAPD, said in this case, "if there is a reason for delay, I cannot think of one."

At 11:20 a.m. Sunday, sheriff's officials issued a "special bulletin" seeking the public's help identifying the suspect with photos of Tran from security camera footage and a warning that "he should be considered armed and dangerous." Around the same time, police in Torrance located a white van that had been linked to the shootings.

Authorities later approached the van at a strip mall near Sepulveda and Hawthorne boulevards. Inside, they found Tran dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Travis Norton, who runs the After Action Review Team for the California Assn. of Tactical Officers, said the five-hour wait time was surprising, but without having all the facts of the case, it is hard to say why the Sheriff's Department might not have notified the public.

"It is not usual to wait that long if they have a known suspect. However, there is always the possibility they have a good reason," he said.

Norton, who is also a lieutenant with the Oceanside Police Department, added that it's possible in a mass shooting situation with so many victims that the failure to notify the public could have been an "oversight."

"These are rapidly unfolding events, even after the shooting stops. Dealing with multiple victims, crime scene processing, large number of witnesses, an active manhunt and all the other factors and dynamics at play make these events highly complex," he said.

James Hellmold, a retired chief of special operations with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, said the lack of information early in the investigation could have been strategic.

"During a manhunt for dangerous suspects, law enforcement must follow up on leads and use measures to determine a suspect's location. Sometimes, it's not prudent to reveal the source of leads or how you intend to find the suspect, particularly when it involves intel or technology," he said.

Typically, law enforcement agencies will release quickly some information — often limited — on their social media accounts after an incident to alert the public of potential danger or request they stay out of the area during an investigation.

"It's not usual to wait hours to release information about such a critical incident when they might want to increase public safety or use the public's help in solving the crime," said Aili Malm, a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Cal State Long Beach.

As he stood outside the Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Tuesday afternoon, Monterey Park Police Chief Scott Wiese described arriving on scene the night of the shooting to "pure chaos." He said there were dozens of witnesses and victims being treated by the Fire Department.

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

L.A. COUNTY Sheriff Robert Luna gives an update Monday on the mass shooting in Monterey Park.

His officers were busy preserving the crime scene, stringing up yellow tape and setting up a perimeter in case the shooter was still in the area. They also were getting information out to surrounding law enforcement agencies, he said.

Within about 25 minutes, officers working the scene in Monterey Park began hearing about an armed man who had entered an Alhambra dance studio.

"We began to associate the suspect there with what we thought was the description of the suspect here," Wiese said. "The weapon description was similar, and that's when we started to put it all together."

Wiese said there's always a concern about the safety of the surrounding community with a potentially armed suspect on the loose. Officers — both from Monterey Park and other agencies — were canvassing the area for the gunman, he said.

"It was very fragmented," he said. "We had two crime scenes, and trying to get that info and make sure it was precise and that it was information the public could actually use takes a little bit of time.

"By the time we could get the information out, we did," he added.

The Sheriff's Department will assess the investigation — as is typical — Luna said, to determine "what worked and specifically what didn't work" in the early hours of the probe and in terms of putting out information.

Investigators continue to work to try to understand what pushed Tran to violence, focusing on his frequent attendance at the two dance studios and the possibility he was driven by jealousy or some other personal resentment, according to law enforcement sources.

Law enforcement sources also believe Tran was having unspecified emotional problems that had been getting worse in the weeks before the shooting.

Court documents and accounts from neighbors and friends offer a fragmented portrait of the gunman, a lonely, embittered man for whom dancing may have offered a rare reprieve from an otherwise empty life.

Before Tran moved to Hemet, he lived for many years in a small white stucco home in San Gabriel with bars over the doors and windows and an orange tree in the front yard.

Former neighbor Tony Castaneda, who lived next to Tran, recalled him being a quiet man. Castaneda and his brother referred to him as "Tango Andy," a nickname associated with his dressing up in a suit on weekends to go out dancing.

But Castaneda also remembered a more disturbing incident about 14 or 15 years ago when sounds of anger coming from Tran's home filled the quiet neighborhood.

"It was 3 a.m., and he had an altercation with a woman. I don't know if it was physical or not, but he threw her out of the house, and as she was leaving, he threw a bunch of dishware at her out in the street. Created all kinds of noise and woke up the neighborhood," Castaneda said.

A former friend of Tran, who was also his tenant for years and ended up suing him in 2014 when Tran refused to fully return his security deposit, described Tran as a loner who rarely had visitors and was typically alone except when he was dancing at Star or the Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio, where he drove after the shooting.

"I think his life was so miserable and desperate that he chose that day to end his life, and meanwhile, he wanted to get people he didn't like or hated to go with him," the man said.

On Tuesday night, hundreds gathered outside Monterey Park City Hall to pay homage to the dead.

"They lost their lives in a small, quiet, beautiful, diverse and familial town that we call home," Mayor Pro Tem Jose Sanchez said.

Monterey Park is a small enough town that Sanchez, who will assume the role of mayor on Wednesday, also works as a high school teacher in the neighboring community of Alhambra.

"Today was not a day of instruction in my classroom, but a day of remembrance," he said. "My classroom of 36 students was not a room of work, but a shrine of hope."

Times staff writers Alene Tchekmedyian and Julia Wick contributed to this report.

Older residents talk about effects of isolation

[**Lopez,** from B1]
accounts. He is the oldest mass murderer in recent history, and his victims were in their 50s, 60s and 70s. The Times described him as a divorced, lonely and embittered man.

Whatever might have motivated him, I wondered if isolation was a factor. We're told that he was a dance instructor, so he wasn't totally disengaged. But isolation can be an emotional as well as a physical state.

"I see a lot of people wandering around here alone," Scott said. "It's how they live their lives."

There are plenty of communal activities available to older residents of Monterey Park, said Derek Ma, founding president and chair of the Chinese American Community Affairs Council. "But a lot of people are alone because their husband or wife passes away," Ma said, and the stress of feeling cut off from people and purpose, he added, can have tragic consequences.

Isolation is no small matter in the rapidly aging population, and the depression that results often goes undiagnosed and untreated. California's Master Plan for Aging specifically cites the need to confront isolation, a challenge complicated by the fact that 2 million residents "do not have access to high-speed internet and approximately 34% of adults over 60 do not use the internet at all," as the plan states.

Even if they are wired, and even if they are not financially destitute, a lot of people feel disconnected, alone and scared. Since I started the Golden State column Jan. 15, readers have filled my mail bag with detailed, sometimes heartbreaking accounts of their struggles.

"I have to work hard to have a social network going throughout the week," wrote Judy, 79, of Torrance. When she feels up for it, Judy goes to church and the grocery store and chats with neighbors while dog walking. "But when I have a week of sickness and cannot do those things, I see nobody. Life is very difficult when that happens."

"My life is so small now," said Marilyn, 77, who lives south of San Francisco. "I still drive. But the pandemic's ongoing psychological toll is immense. I don't expect this isolation will change in my lifetime."

Deanna, a retiree living in Oregon, said that making friends has been much harder than she anticipated. "The isolation and loneliness really get to me.... I try to find contentment and joy each day, but still I think about dying. I don't look forward to more surgeries and recoveries."

Julia, 82, of Santa Barbara, wrote that her husband has dementia. "For the last three years he had been steadily declining.... I'm his full-time caregiver and ... to watch someone you love and have lived with for 60 years disappear before your eyes is beyond depressing." Julia has medical issues, so "caring and thinking for both of us is exhausting."

"I have witnessed the struggles of my peers and our elders living in relative isolation with financial and medical crises unable to help themselves despite reaching out to the respective financial and medical agencies purportedly designed to do just that," wrote Grace, 66, a psychiatrist. "In a wink of an eye, each and every one of us could be facing a life crisis without the safety net to see them through."

I could go on, and I haven't yet worked through the more than 2,000 emails I've gotten from readers since asking them to share the pros and cons of aging. Many of them are prospering, but there are enough people struggling, in one way or another, to fill a book.

If indeed a sense of otherness or isolation motivated the shooter in Monterey Park, it's all the more painful to note that his victims were fully engaged members of the community, all of them participating in innocent, healthy activity.

After I visited the site of the shooting, I drove to the nearby senior center to see how people were coping in the aftermath of the Lunar New Year celebration-turned nightmare. But the center was closed to the public — it was being used as a counseling and resource center for those who lost loved ones.

So I headed out to the Montebello Senior Center, a warm, welcoming oasis from the lingering shock of unspeakable violence — the latest blow to our sense of security and sanity. Four dozen people played bingo in one room while another two dozen people paced through a line-dancing class.

At the height of the pandemic, senior centers had to close their doors, but they switched to virtual classes and checked in on their most vulnerable clients — the ones living alone and known to have trouble paying their bills and buying groceries. The Montebello Senior Center was no different.

"We've seen a lot of our seniors going homeless," said Bianca Herrera, a senior center aide, in some cases because someone in a multigenerational dwelling got COVID and families had to split up to avoid spreading the virus.

There were lots of mental health issues and food shortages during the pandemic, as well. The senior center staff helped as much as it could, Herrera said, "but even we had trouble finding services."

When the bingo game ended, Maria Limas told me she lost her husband in 2021 and sank into despair before connecting with the senior center. Lucia Alcaraz told me she lost her husband 10 years ago and it took a while, but she's now achieved a full sense of purpose at the senior center.

Alcaraz said she raised her hand at a club meeting after the Monterey Park shooting and suggested that everyone be more vigilant about who's struggling, troubled and alone. That's a long list, and it now includes the survivors of yet more victims of senseless violence.

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EMPLOYMENT 1500

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIGEM

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SIRCSI

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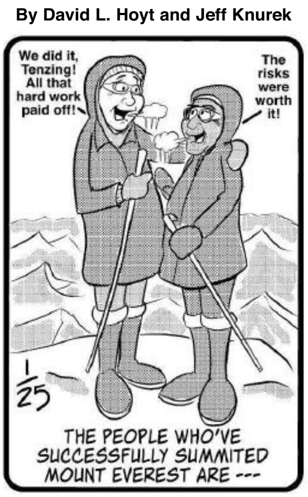
We did it, Tenzing! All that hard work paid off!
The risks were worth it!
1/25
THE PEOPLE WHO'VE SUCCESSFULLY SUMMITED MOUNT EVEREST ARE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWORN POISE LENGTH PAGODA
Answer: If Westminster's competition was for insects, the winner would be — "PEST" IN SHOW

Legal Notices **Legal Notices**

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso):
21CHCV00857

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
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Valencia Vinyl Fence, Inc ., a California Corporation; Madlen Hagopian, an individual; Does I through X; and Roe Corporations XI through XX

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(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
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You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decider en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

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Chatsworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Assly Sayyar, Esq. 255145 Assly Sayyar, Attorney at Law, Inc.
2348 Foothill Drive
Vista, California 92084
(760) 542-8717

Date: (Fecha) 11-08-2021

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)
V. Rico Deputy (Adjunto)

Extra layer of grief for Asian community

[**Smith,** from B1]
motives remain unknown.

"How," Wang asked again, "could this happen?"

What many mourning in Monterey Park didn't know was that, by 7:40 p.m. Monday, "this" had already happened again — almost 400 miles away in the Bay Area.

Exactly three hours earlier, sheriff's deputies in San Mateo County announced they had arrested Chunli Zhao, saying the 66-year-old Asian American man had shot eight people — seven fatally — at two locations near Half Moon Bay. Chinese American farmworkers are among the victims.

"Tragedy upon tragedy," Gov. Gavin Newsom tweeted.

Indeed, upon tragedy.

Not only have California's Asian American communities lost lives in a very public, very violent, very senseless manner in recent days. Those losses have been compounded by the pain of hearing that — as more than a few people told me at Monday night's vigil — "one of our own" did it.

"One of the big issues right now is anti-Asian hate. And, of course, it's a terrible thing," newly elected San Gabriel City Councilmember Eric Chan told me after saying a few words to the candle-carrying crowd. "But as an Asian American man, I'm proud of my race. And then to hear that it was an Asian American committing the crime? It's terrible."

He shook his head.

"Just the thought that within our own community," Chan continued, "we have someone who has that much animosity and hate in their heart, wherever it comes from. When it's perpetrated by one of my own, I feel extra bad."

It's a painful feeling that's easy for me to recognize because, unfortunately, Black people understand it all too well.

For numerous reasons — many traceable to poverty, trauma and centuries of systemic racism — Black people are both disproportionately the victims and disproportionately the perpetrators of crime. It's a reality that has long been lamented by Black pastors and Black families as self-destructive and self-defeating.

> 'There are people in our community who are really, really, really not doing well, and we don't talk about them.'
>
> —Helen H. Hsu,
> director of outreach, counseling and psychological services at Stanford University

And yet, even when Black people are killed in acts of hate — like when an 18-year-old white supremacist drove 200 miles to shoot Black people in a supermarket in Buffalo, N.Y., last year — it doesn't take long for the conversation to shift to "but what about Chicago?" Or when activists take to the streets to denounce an act of police brutality that claimed another Black life, it's always "but what about Black-on-Black crime?"

This sort of victim blaming, wrapped in a flimsy shield of whataboutism, leaves little room for our community's pain, or for having honest policy conversations about economic equity and mental health. Instead, it insidiously instills shame.

And so I was disappointed, though not entirely surprised, to see social media erupt in similarly demented, right-wing cheer after Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna released a photo of Tran as a suspect in the Monterey Park shooting.

"Liberals was quick to holler hate crime against Asians for the mass shooting," one person tweeted. "There is only one small problem. The shooter was Asian. Liberals want a race war so bad that they will stoop low to cause it."

"The racist a— Democrats are not angry or sad about the Monterey shooting itself," another tweeted. "They are mad that it was Asian on Asian crime and not a WHITE REPUBLICAN dude, so they can't push their hate crime gun control narrative."

So toxic was the Twittersphere that prominent Asian Americans started pushing back.

"There is a level of glee in these 'the shooter is Asian' replies that is just... go f— yourself," tweeted Korean American blogger Phil Yu.

And then there was this tweet by Stephanie KyeongSeon Drenka, cofounder of the Dallas Asian American Historical Society: "The snark from some people delighting in the fact that the shooter may be Asian because they've now successfully 'owned the libs' who feared this was a hate crime rather than acknowledging the collective trauma and grief our community has faced leading up to today says a lot."

Most troubling were the blatant attempts to downplay and even dismiss the very real surge in racism and hate crimes against Asian Americans since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In California alone, there was an increase of 177.5% from 2020 to 2021 (although, overall, Black people are still targeted the most).

"Asians and Asian Americans have been nothing short of terrorized during the pandemic (as well as throughout American history)," Korean American author Min Jin Lee tweeted, "and adding mass shooting (s) perpetrated by members of our own community only compounds our loss of safety and our precarious sense of security."

Also, hate crimes can be intraracial — as we were reminded of last year when David Wenwei Chou, a 68-year-old security guard from Las Vegas, shot six people inside a Taiwanese church in Laguna Woods. Authorities found notes in Chou's car stating that he didn't believe Taiwan should be independent from China and that he had an issue with Taiwanese people.

Helen H. Hsu, director of outreach, counseling and psychological services at Stanford University, laments that this sort of violence doesn't get talked about enough within Asian American communities.

Meanwhile, gun deaths are up, along with gun purchases. Toxic masculinity remains a largely unaddressed problem, too often leading to domestic abuse and even murder.

"If you disaggregate us, as Asians, we have the highest household income and the very lowest. We have the highest levels of educational attainment and the very, very lowest," she said. "When you mash those together, we look like a nice, normal bell curve. But there are people in our community who are really, really, really not doing well, and we don't talk about them."

"But some of us like the model minority myth, and so there's a lot of cultural stigma to hide our problems," added Hsu, who also is president of the American Psychological Assn.'s Society for the Study of Race, Culture and Ethnicity.

If anything, the mass shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay have made those problems harder to hide and to ignore.

Tran, who killed himself on Sunday as a SWAT team surrounded his van in Torrance, was described by a former friend as a loner who was "miserable and desperate." Two weeks before descending on two dance studios with a gun, he told police a wild tale about his family trying to poison him years ago and about being the victim of fraud and theft.

Zhao, who has been booked on murder charges, lived and worked with some of the farmworkers he is accused of shooting. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, one former co-worker accused Zhao of trying to suffocate him in 2013 and subsequently filed a restraining order.

Hyepin Im, president and CEO of Faith and Community Empowerment, said this is the time to do away with the myths and unpack that model minority stereotype. Because, as we're seeing, one person's problem, when it's left unaddressed, can quickly become everyone's problem.

"Many of the community leaders, we're all rallying for the need to address gun violence and to address resources for mental health services," she told me. "And so we are not taking it — at least in the rooms that I've seen — as a shame factor."

Newsom, speaking to residents in Monterey Park earlier this week, acknowledged that he was walking through a community that "feels under-respected, under-appreciated [and] under-resourced."

It shouldn't take a mass shooting to make it clear that people have unaddressed needs. And no community should be made to feel ashamed for demanding the government attention and resources necessary to prevent future harm.

That's as true for Asian Americans as it is for Black people.

"It is always sad when someone in your community has committed a heinous act. We're always fearful: 'Is that our race?' " Im told me. "That, I think, is the reality of America."

Wally Skalij Los Angeles Times

MOURNERS attend a vigil Tuesday for victims of the mass shooting in Monterey Park. Huu Can Tran killed himself Sunday as a SWAT team surrounded his van.

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes
Los Angeles Times

BALESTRA, Noel Robert

December 31, 1927 - January 17, 2023

Mrs Carmela Balestra regrets to announce the death of her beloved husband Mr Noel Robert Balestra, co owner of the Restaurant "La Parisienne" in Monrovia, CA, that occurred on January 17 in Menton, France, at the age of 95.

His cremation will take place in Nice, France, according to his wishes, on Monday afternoon, January 23, after a light benediction.

He never forgot his American and Mexican friends and the doctors who cared for him through the years.

May his soul rest in peace. He will always remain in our hearts.

FINKELSTEIN, Grace

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

LEVINE, Lenore

February 17, 1943 - January 12, 2023

"You Were The Wind Beneath Our Wings"

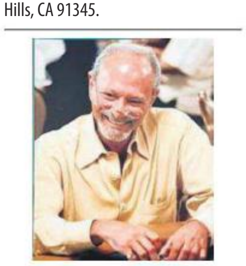
On Thursday, January 12, 2023, Lenore Levine, beloved partner and mother of two, passed away at the age of 79.

Lenore was born in the Bronx, NY, to Anna and Morris Marks. She lived a full life with her love and constant companion of 40 years, Denice and her two children, Adam and Allison.

Lenore was a young woman in the 1960's and was always the political activist, whether marching for peace or later in years engaging in passionate political conversation with friends and family. There was always laughter and joy in Lenore's home, especially with her sister Norma, who was taken too soon. Lenore will always be remembered for her wicked sense of humor. She loved music, the theater and travel. Unfortunately, Lenore's ability to travel was taken from her too early due to her Kidney disease that was diagnosed 21 years ago, but she enjoyed a quiet & happy life with Denice and their fur-babies. She loved gardening, especially her succulents.

Lenore was preceded in death by her father Morris, her mother Anna and her beloved sister Norma. She is survived by her life partner of 40 years, Denice, her two children Adam and Allison, 4 Grandchildren and 5 Great-grand children. Lenore was blessed with a full life.

A funeral & graveside service for Lenore will be held Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 1:00 PM at Eden Memorial Park, 11500 Sepulveda Blvd, Mission Hills, CA 91345.



MARIN, Raymond Hy

August 23, 1938 - January 18, 2023

For those who were lucky to have known him, you already know that Ray was an exceptionally successful human being.

To share stories or comments with the family, email raymarin38-tribute@yahoo.com.

SNETIKER, Jeffrey

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Simi Valley 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

TREBOW, Beverly H

November 26, 1935 - January 21, 2023

Beverly Helen Trebow passed away at age 87. Born in Los Angeles to Bessie and Ben Shafer, Beverly graduated from Beverly Hills HS, and earned her Special Education Certificate. She worked devotedly with pre-school special education students in LAUSD. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Fred. Beverly is survived by her daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Trebow, sister, Dr. Arlene Price, 2 nieces and 4 nephews. Beverly was adored by all who knew her. She was involved in B'nai B'rith and many other charitable organizations. Funeral will be January 27, at Noon, at Hillside Memorial Park.

To place an obituary ad
please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary
or call Ms. Phillips
1-800-528-4637
Ext. 77242

WALLACE , Carole Jane

September 11, 1942 - January 20, 2023

Carole Jane Wallace (Hirsch), of Beverly Hills, passed away at home surrounded by her family after courageously battling a long illness. Born in the Bronx, New York, she moved to California at the age of 7 with her parents Leo and Kay Hirsch and younger sister Marsha. She adored her three grandsons, never missing a game, a birthday, a graduation. She was proud to see them off to college this year.

She is survived by her loving daughters, Melissa Wallace and Jennifer Wallace Ostrow (Danny Ostrow), her three grandsons, Max Ostrow, Miles Ostrow and Nicholas Wallace. Adoring sister Marsha Genut and cherished brother-in-law David Genut. Devoted aunt to Shawn Genut (Dana), Logan Genut, Sydney Genut, Amy Genut, Leslie Siebert (Steven Siebert), Jack Siebert and Henry Siebert. Caring former husband Steve Wallace. Best friends Rhonda and Bobbi.

Services will be held at Mount Sinai, Hollywood Hills, Sunday, January 29th, 11:00 am.

James Bernard Bertero

August 20, 1939 - January 10, 2023

James Bernard Bertero, 83, died January 10, 2023 at home in Solvang CA, of natural causes. He was born August 20, 1939 in Los Angeles, CA to John Benedict Bertero Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Nagle. He grew up the fourth of five children in Los Angeles, attending Loyola High School and Loyola University. Upon graduation in 1961 he entered the United States Air Force, serving as a 2nd lieutenant and then captain. He earned his J.D. from the University of Southern California School Law School in 1969 and went on to a 51-year career as a civil litigator with Musick Peeler & Garrett in Los Angeles.

He married the love of his life, Ann Elizabeth Gibson, on August 26, 1961 in Los Angeles. They raised their family of three in San Marino, moved to La Jolla, and settled in Solvang in 1997. Jim was a devoted and loving husband, and a strict father with a mischievous sense of humor. He was a "family first" man who together with Ann created a beautiful legacy in their immediate and extended family as well as in their community through their generosity of spirit. Jim was a lifelong learner with an always curious mind, an avid reader, and lover of world and California history. He thrived in genuine debate or lively discussion mixed with a healthy dose of humor.

Jim was predeceased by his beloved wife of 52 years Ann, youngest son Tom, daughter-in-law Jackie and his four siblings. He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Bertero Palmer (Steve), son Jim Jr. and daughter-in-law Elisabeth; eight grandchildren, Andrew, Brendan and Ian Palmer, Christine Smith (Ryan), Corinne, Sarah, Colin (Sarah Kay) and Sophia Bertero; four great-grandchildren, Merrick, Reese and Grant Bertero, Mason Smith; numerous nieces and nephews; his loyal canine companion Vinnie.

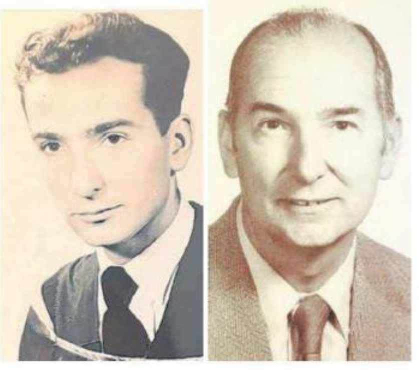
A memorial mass will be celebrated Saturday, March 11, 2023, 10:30 a.m., at Old Mission Santa Ines, 1760 Mission Drive, Solvang. A reception following mass will be held at Jim and Ann's Solvang residence. Committal at Oak Hill Cemetery, Ballard, CA, will be private. Donations may be made in Jim's memory to the Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital Foundation Ann Bertero Scholarship Fund. Loper Funeral Chapel, Ballard, CA, directors. Alla famiglia Gramps.

The year that was 1958
First transatlantic jet passenger service started by BOAC, with a New York to London route.
latimes.com/archives

Share a memory
To sign a guest book please go to
latimes.com/guestbooks
Los Angeles Times

Stories live on.
Tell theirs.
placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries
Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com

Honor a life
To place an obituary ad
please go to
latimes.com/placeobituary
Los Angeles Times



Douglas Constantine Basil

May 30, 1923 - December 20, 2022

A truly amazing Renaissance man, Dr. Douglas Constantine Basil, passed away at his home surrounded by his family in his one-hundredth year. Although he never liked to tell anyone his age, he was within a few months of marking the 100 milestone. He will be very much missed by many. A proud naturalized American citizen, Douglas was born in Vancouver, Canada on May 30, 1923 to mother Christine (Findley) Basil of Glasgow, Scotland, and father William Basil, born in Greece. He enlisted in the Canadian/British Army when World War II started for the allied side in 1939. A captain by age 19, he was in active service in Germany, France, Great Britain and Holland for over five years. He was recruited by the British Intelligence during the war but did not want to accept the invitation! He asked to be with his men and learned years later, that the battalions to which he was assigned suffered immense casualties. Douglas maintained that his love of history and strategy grew out of his war time experiences. After WWII, Douglas pursued his education on the Canadian version of the GI Bill and graduated from the University of British Columbia. He was eventually awarded a scholarship to attend the London School of Economics for his advanced studies. He was in turn offered several teaching opportunities in the United States which he accepted with his wife Peg, who was the first in her Canadian family to have an advanced degree. Douglas taught at the University of Marquette and Northwestern University in the Kellogg School of Business, among others. He will forever be associated with his long 28 year teaching career at USC (University of Southern California) in the Management and Organization Department at the Marshall School of Business. He was a big booster to young faculty and created a program for them. When he retired, he left a generous endowment to support retired professors at the USC Emeriti Center. Douglas published many books on business which were translated into languages such as Japanese and Portuguese. He had a special interest in promoting women in business and wrote one of the first serious books encouraging companies worldwide to advance their careers. With Dr. Curtis Cook, Douglas wrote a seminal book called The Management of Change which McGraw Hill promoted as "the blueprint for 21rst Century Man." (He would have added "Woman" we know). Douglas enjoyed teaching seminars to international students around the world through courses associated with Harvard, Stanford and Dartmouth. He created The Basil Family Foundation to foster advanced education and unique projects. He also became a sought-after international business consultant and spent nearly half the year travelling. Douglas often pulled his daughter out of school after deciding that world travel was an important component of her education. He loved learning about new things and having adventures. He seemed fearless at times – such as paragliding in Mexico in his eighties or travelling through Europe with his wife Peg on the back of a motorcycle by way of a honeymoon. Douglas outlived many of his friends, colleagues and family members, including his brother William and several cherished relatives in Scotland and Canada. He is preceded in death by his first wife Evelyn Margaret "Peg" Basil (formerly Pitcairn) of over 40 years. He is survived by his loving and adored wife Pauline Cleary (formerly Iacono) Basil of San Pedro, California. Douglas is survived by his only child, Dr. Wendy Basil of Simi Valley, California and two much loved granddaughters Alice Lockhart and Lily Lockhart. He also loved his "honorary daughter" Mary Mateljan Ruiz and passed on the travel bug to her. Mary first introduced herself to the family while on a tricycle, age 4, when she asked to inspect the house Douglas was building next door "for his little girl." As a hobby and an investment, Douglas also designed and built a number of cliff-side houses. Douglas continued to serve as an educator for many years following the passing of his first wife. He was delighted to be recruited as a guest lecturer booked on cruise ships as a way to get away from an empty house. He would discuss the culture, history and economic interests of the ports they visited, plus gave tips on shopping and purchasing art. He met his second wife Pauline, a widow, on a cruise ship when she attended his lecture, only to learn that they lived in the same California town a few miles apart! His caregivers were extraordinary and essential to his health in the past year. Mary Ann Bonsall was the primary caretaker who also brought in Mercy, Eva and Lou. Douglas kept his sense of humor throughout his long life and truly adored these ladies. One of their favorite excursions was to the 99 Cent Store. He passed his love of collecting to his daughter Wendy who would often accompany him to garage sales and auctions while growing up. Part of their routine was to hide his purchases downstairs so his wife wouldn't see them. He continued to hide his treasures from his second wife Pauline as well. As per his wishes, there were no graveside services following cremation. Instead, a joyous celebration with bagpipes and toasts to a life well-lived is planned for Friday January 27, 2023 at Michael's Tuscany Room (Banquet) at 470 West 7th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. Telephone is 310/ 519-7100. Lunch will be served from 11 am to 2 pm. If you wish to make a gift in Douglas Basil's name, you can give an in-memory donation to the Salvation Army which was a favorite of his Scottish relatives at give.salvationarmyusa.org or to KUSC Radio either by calling 800/421-1717 or text KUSC AT 41444. For more information, please contact Wendy Basil at drwendybasil@gmail.com. Please sign the guestbook at mcnerneysmortuary.com.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Windy tonight and Thursday: After a chilly start to the day, especially in some sheltered inland valleys, dry weather and sunshine will prevail. Afternoon temperatures will be close to or slightly below the seasonal average. Santa Ana winds will strengthen tonight and Thursday as a fresh area of high pressure builds over the Great Basin. The strongest of these winds are expected to occur Thursday morning.

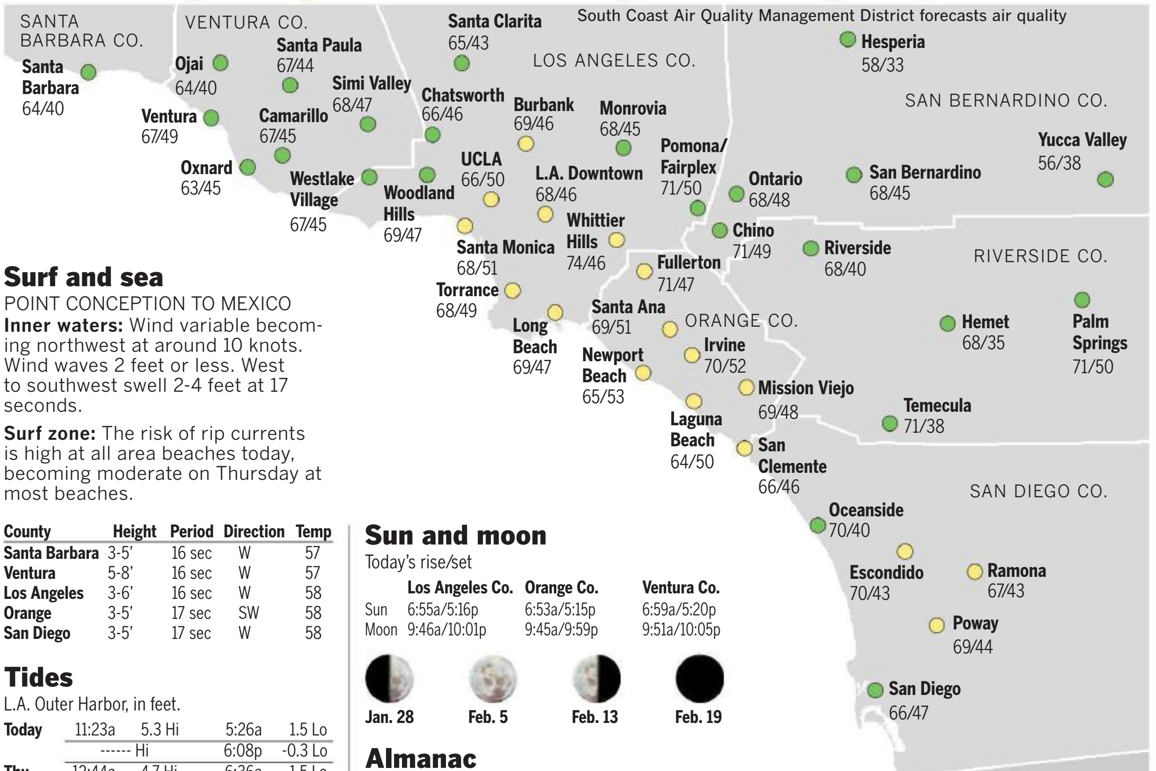
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	68|46 Sunshine		67|48 Breezy in the p.m.		68|51 Sunshine		41|19 Breezy in the p.m.		71|50 Sunshine	
Thursday	Sunny	69/46	Windy	65/43	Sunny	67/44	Windy, colder	34/15	Sunny	68/45
Friday	Mostly sunny	68/46	Mostly sunny	68/45	Mostly sunny	63/42	Milder	50/20	Sunny	69/46
Saturday	Partly sunny	64/51	Partly sunny	61/45	Partly sunny	62/48	Mostly sunny	46/19	Mostly sunny	69/48
Sunday	Showers	60/43	Showers	55/42	Showers	54/42	Clouds, sun	44/20	Clouds, sun	69/47

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind variable becoming northwest at around 10 knots. Wind waves 2 feet or less. West to southwest swell 2-4 feet at 17 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of rip currents is high at all area beaches today, becoming moderate on Thursday at most beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	3-5'	16 sec	W	57
Ventura	5-8'	16 sec	W	57
Los Angeles	3-6'	16 sec	W	58
Orange	3-5'	17 sec	SW	58
San Diego	3-5'	17 sec	W	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	11:23a	5.3 Hi	5:26a	1.5 Lo
	------	Hi	6:08p	-0.3 Lo
Thu.	12:44a	4.7 Hi	6:36a	1.5 Lo
	12:21p	4.3 Hi	6:48p	0.4 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 45	Phoenix, 45
Los Angeles, 45	San Francisco, 45

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:55a/5:16p	6:53a/5:15p	6:59a/5:20p
Moon	9:46a/10:01p	9:45a/9:59p	9:51a/10:05p

Jan. 28 Feb. 5 Feb. 13 Feb. 19

Almanac

Tuesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	67/42	69/40	69/47
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	71/47	70/44	70/54
Record high/date	85/1935	85/2015	84/1951
Record low/date	36/1937	37/2002	33/1948

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.01	10.94	13.33
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.36	5.47	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	6.48	5.33	7.25
Humidity (high/low)	62/20	70/25	77/31

California cities

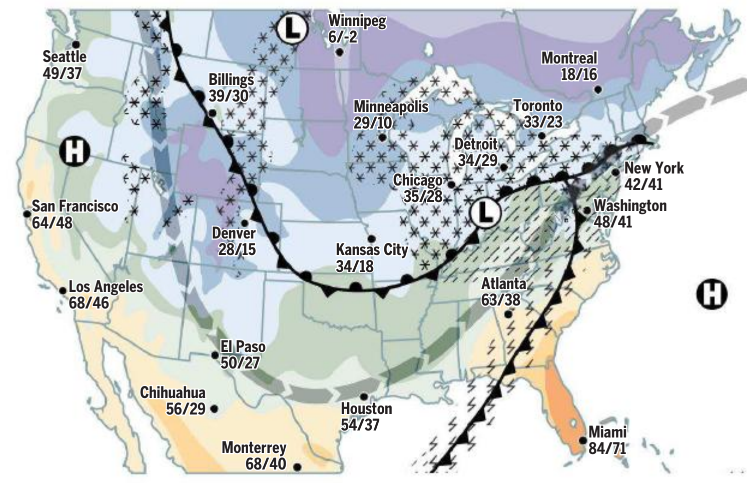
City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Thursday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	72	44	--	70	50	70	43
Avalon/Catalina	xx	xx	--	63	50	63	51
Bakersfield	57	34	--	60	39	63	38
Barstow	60	33	--	60	33	58	34
Big Bear Lake	42	16	--	41	19	34	15
Bishop	57	26	--	54	26	54	26
Burbank	66	38	--	69	46	69	43
Camarillo	67	38	--	67	45	71	41
Chatsworth	71	45	--	66	46	65	44
Chino	68	33	--	71	49	67	37
Compton	67	40	--	69	45	70	42
Dana Point	62	40	--	64	47	69	45
Death Valley	74	50	--	67	50	67	43
Del Mar	66	44	--	65	48	69	43
Escondido	68	37	--	70	43	67	35
Eureka	57	34	--	59	37	57	39
Fallbrook	67	42	--	70	42	69	40
Fresno	59	33	--	61	37	62	38
Fullerton	69	40	--	71	47	71	42
Hemet	xx	xx	xx	68	35	63	32
Hesperia	55	28	--	58	33	50	26
Huntington Beach	65	38	--	65	52	69	44
Idyllwild	52	24	--	51	35	47	34
Irvine	67	37	--	70	52	70	43
L.A. D'ntown/USC	67	42	--	68	46	69	46
L.A. Int'l. Airport	65	41	--	64	48	69	47
Laguna Beach	62	38	--	64	50	67	47
Lancaster	59	25	--	60	31	57	23
Long Beach	68	41	--	69	47	72	43
Mammoth Lakes	41	10	--	37	14	37	19
Mission Viejo	69	41	--	69	48	67	45
Monrovia	67	40	--	68	45	65	48
Monterey	61	37	--	64	42	69	43
Mt. Wilson	52	34	--	45	38	48	40
Needles	62	41	--	62	42	62	39
Newport Beach	65	44	--	65	53	68	45
Northridge	71	43	--	70	48	68	44
Oakland	61	42	--	64	45	64	43
Oceanside	64	33	--	70	40	72	38
Ojai	70	30	--	64	40	66	43
Ontario	66	35	--	68	48	64	41
Palm Springs	72	41	--	71	50	68	45
Pasadena	69	44	--	67	45	68	45
Paso Robles	61	29	--	62	30	64	29
Redding	71	45	--	69	47	70	38
Riverside	65	30	--	68	40	64	36
Sacramento	58	31	--	62	37	63	35
San Bernardino	66	38	--	68	45	62	41
San Diego	66	41	--	66	47	68	43
San Francisco	64	44	--	64	48	65	44
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	72	47	69	45
San Jose	64	36	--	64	40	64	41
San Luis Obispo	67	32	--	69	37	72	40
Santa Ana	65	42	--	69	51	71	45
Santa Barbara	65	35	--	64	40	62	39
Santa Clarita	68	37	--	65	43	64	42
Santa Monica Pier	65	44	--	68	51	67	44
Santa Paula	68	39	--	67	44	69	41
Santa Rosa	65	33	--	70	40	68	34
Simi Valley	71	44	--	68	47	63	39
Tahoe Valley	45	5	--	40	16	41	20
Temecula	64	33	--	71	38	65	37
Thousand Oaks	69	49	--	67	45	66	40
Torrance	68	37	--	68	49	68	45
UCLA	xx	xx	--	66	50	69	44
Van Nuys	72	42	--	70	52	70	43
Ventura	69	47	--	67	49	64	42
Whittier Hills	70	39	--	74	46	69	41
Woodland Hills	73	36	--	69	47	68	43
Wrightwood	47	28	--	48	34	40	31
Yorba Linda	70	42	--	72	55	65	42
Yosemite Valley	48	24	--	47	31	49	34

Today in North America

Snow spreads northeast: A storm will spread heavy snow from Illinois into New England while heavy rain and thunderstorms reach from the mid-Atlantic states through the Southeast. Snow showers will be scattered over the Rockies and northern Plains. The West Coast will be dry.

Pressure: Ⓛ Low Ⓗ High Warm Front Cold Front Jet Stream Trough

Temps -0 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100+ Rain T-storm Snow Ice



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 88 in Weslaco, Texas **Low** –19 in Boulder, Wyo.

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	36	30	.02	33	31	Sn
Albuquerque	43	26	Tr	38	19	Su
Anchorage	42	25	.03	39	36	Sf
Aspen	24	4	.02	18	-3	Sf
Atlanta	54	30	--	63	38	R
Austin	54	45	1.23	57	34	Su
Baltimore	51	35	--	48	40	R
Boise	37	15	--	38	25	Pc
Boston	39	30	Tr	37	34	Sn
Buffalo	34	32	.01	37	27	Sn
Burlington, Vt.	37	29	Tr	30	28	Sn
Charleston, S.C.	59	32	--	72	45	Ts
Charlotte	55	27	--	57	38	R
Chicago	36	27	--	35	28	Sn
Cincinnati	42	27	--	42	32	Sn
Cleveland	36	28	--	39	31	Sn
Columbia, S.C.	57	27	--	66	40	Ts
Columbus	40	26	--	43	30	Sn
Dallas/Ft.Worth	45	43	.95	49	32	Cy
Denver	33	17	--	28	15	Sf
Detroit	40	28	--	34	29	Sn
El Paso	52	33	.07	50	27	Su
Eugene	39	32	--	49	34	Cy
Fort Myers	81	57	--	84	64	Pc
Hartford	42	32	--	35	32	Sn
Honolulu	82	69	--	79	66	Cy
Houston	60	45	4.05	54	37	Pc
Indianapolis	44	26	--	35	30	Sn
Jacksonville, Fla.	67	37	--	81	45	Ts
Kansas City	40	27	--	34	18	Sn
Knoxville	50	24	--	57	35	R
Las Vegas	57	35	--	56	40	Su
Louisville	49	29	--	44	35	Sn
Medford	51	25	--	50	30	Pc
Memphis	49	32	.17	43	32	Cy
Miami	80	69	.02	84	71	Pc
Milwaukee	37	28	Tr	36	27	Sn
Minneapolis	27	14	.02	29	10	Sf
Nashville	52	27	--	50	36	W
New Orleans	67	46	.03	54	42	Pc
New York	46	35	--	42	41	Sn
Norfolk	52	34	--	60	46	R
Oklahoma City	39	34	.46	43	25	Cy
Omaha	36	24	--	26	12	W
Orlando	76	48	--	85	56	Pc
Philadelphia	49	35	--	44	43	R
Phoenix	56	36	--	61	40	Su
Pittsburgh	33	29	Tr	42	30	Sn
Portland, Ore.	51	39	--	52	37	Cy
Providence	39	26	Tr	38	33	Sn
Raleigh/Durham	58	29	--	65	43	R
Reno	43	18	--	44	22	Su
Richmond	56	30	--	57	42	R
St. Louis	45	30	Tr	38	25	Sn
Salt Lake City	33	22	Tr	35	24	Cy
Seattle	44	37	Tr	49	37	Cy
Tampa	77	50	--	79	57	Cy
Tucson	54	28	Tr	59	32	Su
Tulsa	40	28	.12	43	22	Cy
Washington, D.C.	52	33	--	48	41	R
Wichita	36	27	.14	37	22	Cy

World

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	86	68	--	86	68	Su
Amsterdam	38	37	--	39	37	Cy
Athens	63	46	.02	56	50	Sh
Bangkok	91	73	--	85	68	Pc
Barcelona	46	37	.07	56	35	Su
Berlin	35	32	.02	36	31	Cy
Cabo San Lucas	70	51	--	76	54	Pc
Cairo	71	58	--	71	52	Pc
Dubai	82	61	--	76	63	Sh
Dublin	52	45	--	49	36	Sh
Havana	86	63	--	85	65	Su
Ho Chi Minh City	95	77	.18	89	72	Cy
Hong Kong	63	56	--	60	56	Su
Istanbul	50	44	.03	45	41	Cy
Jerusalem	63	47	--	63	43	Su
Johannesburg	84	57	--	84	55	Su
Kuala Lumpur	82	74	.46	88	73	R
Lima	77	68	--	78	69	Pc
London	41	37	--	44	35	R
Madrid	43	28	--	51	31	Su
Mecca	89	71	--	83	66	Pc
Mexico City	78	44	--	78	42	Su
Montreal	36	28	.10	18	16	Sn
Moscow	30	25	--	30	26	Cy
Mumbai	79	67	--	81	68	Hz
New Delhi	68	57	--	69	54	Ts
Paris	37	32	--	38	31	Cy
Prague	33	32	.02	35	30	Cy
Rome	54	37	.02	55	38	Cy
Seoul	37	4	--	22	15	Su
Singapore	79	76	1.60	82	75	R
Taipei City	53	51	.12	57	51	W
Tokyo	70	41	.01	40	30	Pc
Vancouver	43	37	.16	46	37	Cy
Vienna	39	35	--	38	31	Cy

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Tuesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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Kings' Fiala scores winner in overtime

Kopitar scores twice and Copley makes 28 saves to help L.A. pull out a win on the road.

KINGS 4
PHILADELPHIA 3 (OT)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — Kevin Fiala scored 1:09 into overtime to lead the Kings to a 4-3 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night.

Anze Kopitar scored two goals and Samuel Fagemo added one for the Kings.

James van Riemsdyk, Wade Allison and Rasmus Ristolainen scored for the Flyers.

The Kings dominated the third period but couldn't find the tiebreaking goal until the extra session. Fiala took the puck the length of the ice and elected to shoot on a 2-on-1, firing a wrist shot under the left arm of goalie Carter Hart for his 17th goal and team-leading 50th point.

Fiala lobbied to play in the final 30 seconds of regulation, but Kings coach Todd McLellan held him back for overtime.

"He loves to be on the ice," McLellan said. "Thank goodness we had him out there fresh and he was able to finish."

Pheonix Copley made 28 saves for the Kings. Hart stopped 34 shots.

"Philly played a really hard game," McLellan said. "No freebies."

Flyers coach John Tortorella usually is feisty after a loss, but he wasn't Tuesday.

"We stuck right there with them," he said. "We got our legs going and played a really good hockey game."

Fowler, Stolarz power Ducks' road triumph

The team gets off to a fast start this time and improves to 2-2-1 on its lengthy trip.

DUCKS 5
ARIZONA 2

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE, Ariz. — Cam Fowler had two goals and an assist, Anthony Stolarz stopped 37 shots, and the Ducks defeated the Arizona Coyotes 5-2 on Tuesday night.

Hampered by slow starts recently, the Ducks jumped on the Coyotes early and took advantage of a game misconduct penalty on Arizona's Juuso Valimaki to build a 4-0 lead.

Troy Terry had a goal and two assists for the Ducks (14-29-5), and Frank Vatrano added a goal and an assist.

Arizona (15-28-5) picked up the intensity after Fowler's second goal, cutting the Ducks' lead in half on goals by Barrett Hayton and Nick Schmaltz.

Adam Henrique ended the Coyotes' hopes of completing the comeback by scoring an empty-net goal with 3½ minutes left.

Connor Ingram collected 39 saves for Arizona, which has lost 12 of 14.

The Ducks, who were coming off a 6-3 loss at Buffalo on Saturday, improved to 2-2-1 on their trip.

They got off to a much better start against Arizona, scoring late in the first period when Vatrano beat Ingram with a one-timer from the slot.

The Ducks are at Colorado on Thursday night to finish their six-game trip.

The Coyotes will host St. Louis on Thursday night.

NHL STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	29	17	3	61	158	142
KINGS	27	17	6	60	163	170
Seattle	27	14	5	59	166	144
Edmonton	27	18	3	57	178	157
Calgary	23	16	9	55	154	146
Vancouver	19	25	3	41	160	188
San Jose	14	25	10	38	147	187
DUCKS	14	29	5	33	118	201
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	28	13	8	64	169	127
Winnipeg	31	17	1	63	161	128
Colorado	26	17	3	55	144	126
Minnesota	25	17	4	54	145	134
Nashville	23	18	6	52	131	137
St. Louis	23	22	3	49	152	172
Arizona	15	28	5	35	125	175
Chicago	14	28	4	32	110	168

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	29	9	8	66	151	124
New Jersey	31	12	4	66	164	123
NY Rangers	26	14	7	59	151	125
Pittsburgh	24	15	8	56	155	144
Washington	25	19	6	56	158	142
NY Islanders	23	21	5	51	143	141
Philadelphia	20	21	8	48	136	159
Columbus	14	30	3	31	122	184
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Boston	38	5	4	80	181	98
Toronto	29	11	8	66	163	127
Tampa Bay	30	15	1	61	167	137
Buffalo	25	19	3	53	180	160
Florida	23	21	6	52	171	176
Detroit	20	18	8	48	141	155
Ottawa	20	23	3	43	133	152
Montreal	20	25	3	43	127	175

RESULTS

KINGS 4 AT PHILADELPHIA 3 (OT)	Kevin Fiala scored 1:09 into overtime, and Pheonix Copley made 28 saves for the Kings.
DUCKS 5 AT ARIZONA 2	Cam Fowler had two goals and an assist and Anthony Stolarz had 37 saves as the Ducks have won two of three.
AT DETROIT 3 SAN JOSE 2 (OT)	Andrew Copp scored in OT to lift the Red Wings, who played their last home game before the All-Star break.
BOSTON 4 AT MONTREAL 2	Patrice Bergeron broke a tie with 2:55 remaining and the NHL-leading Bruins won their sixth game in a row.
AT PITTSBURGH 7 FLORIDA 6 (OT)	Kris Letang scored his second goal of the game in OT to give the Penguins their fourth overtime win this season.
AT TAMPA BAY 4 MINNESOTA 2	Steven Stamkos scored the tiebreaking goal with 5:38 left for the Lightning, who won their 10th straight home game.
AT NEW JERSEY 3 VEGAS 2 (OT)	Dougie Hamilton scored late to tie the game and netted a power-play goal with 1:06 left in overtime for the Devils.
AT NASHVILLE 2 WINNIPEG 1	Tanner Jeannot scored in the third period and Juuse Saros made 32 saves for the Predators, winners of four of five.
BUFFALO 5 AT ST. LOUIS 3	Tage Thompson and Jeff Skinner each had a goal and two assists as Buffalo ended a nine-game skid in St. Louis.
AT COLORADO 3 WASHINGTON 2	Artturi Lehkonen, Andrew Cogliano and Alex Newhook scored. Coach Jared Bednar won his team-record 266th.
AT VANCOUVER 5 CHICAGO 2	Andrei Kuzmenko had two goals and Elias Pettersson had two assists as the Canucks ended a three-game slide.

TODAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 4 p.m.
Carolina at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 6:30 p.m.

SUMMARIES

KINGS 4, FLYERS 3, OT

KINGS	2	1	0	1	4
Philadelphia	2	1	0	0	3

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Phi., van Riemsdyk 8 (Provorov, Tippett), 5:50. 2. KINGS, Kopitar 13 (Doughty, Fiala), 9:21 (pp). 3. Phi., Allison 7 (Hayes, Provorov), 10:27. 4. KINGS, Kopitar 14 (Byfield, Kempe), 11:40. **Penalties**—Danault, KINGS (Delay of Game), 3:31. van Riemsdyk, PHI (Tripping), 9:17. Sanheim, PHI (Hooking), 13:32. Kempe, KINGS (Holding), 18:14.

SECOND PERIOD: 5. Phi., Ristolainen 2 (Frost, van Riemsdyk), 10:37. 6. KINGS, Fagemo 2 (Lizotte), 18:36. **Penalties**—van Riemsdyk, PHI (Tripping), 1:45. Deslauriers, PHI (Tripping), 3:51. Ristolainen, PHI (Boarding), 15:43. Byfield, KINGS (Tripping), 19:20. Konecny, PHI (Roughing), 20:00. Anderson, KINGS (Roughing), 20:00.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties**—None.

OVERTIME: 7. KINGS, Fiala 17, 1:09. **Penalties**—DeAngelo, PHI (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 1:09. DeAngelo, PHI (Misconduct), 1:09.

SHOTS ON GOAL: KINGS 14-11-10-3—38. Phi. 14-7-9-1—31. Power-play conversions—KINGS 1 of 5. Phi. 0 of 3.

GOALIES: KINGS, Copley 14-3-0 (31 shots-28 saves). Phi., Hart 14-14-7 (38-34). Att—15,602 (19,543). T—2:35.

DUCKS 5, COYOTES 2

DUCKS	1	2	2	5
Arizona	0	0	2	2

FIRST PERIOD—1. DUCKS, Vatrano 8 (Terry), 17:38. **Penalties**—Brown, ARI (Roughing), 9:05; Strome, DUCKS (Cross Checking), 15:17.

SECOND PERIOD—2. DUCKS, Terry 13 (Megna, Fowler), 3:34. 3, DUCKS, Fowler 6 (Zegras, Terry), 4:19 (pp). **Penalties**—Arizona bench, served by Kassian (Slashing), 3:34; Valimaki, ARI (Misconduct), 3:34; Megna, DUCKS(Hooking), 14:04.

THIRD PERIOD—4. DUCKS, Fowler 7 (Vatrano, Shattenkirk), 3:02. 5. Arizona, Hayton 6, 10:44. 6. Arizona, Schmaltz 8 (Hayton, Chychrun), 14:34 (pp). 7. DUCKS, Henrique 17 (Silfverberg), 16:39 (en). **Penalties**—Zegras, DUCKS (Slashing), 13:23; Brown, ARI (Misconduct), 17:10; Comtois, DUCKS (Misconduct), 17:10; McTavish, DUCKS (Holding), 19:17.

SHOTS ON GOAL —DUCKS 16-16-11—43. Arizona 12-11-16—39. Power-play conversions—DUCKS 1 of 3; Arizona 1 of 4. Goalies—DUCK, Stolarz 4-6-0 (39 shots-37 saves). Arizona, Ingram 3-11-1 (42-38). A—4,600 (5,000). T—2:30.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Rolen makes cut for Hall of Fame

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Slick-fielding third baseman **Scott Rolen** was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame on Tuesday with five votes to spare above the 75% needed.

The seven-time All-Star and eight-time Gold Glove winner got in on his sixth appearance on the ballot, picked on 297 of 389 ballots cast by the Baseball Writers' Assn. of America for 76.3%.

ETC.

Clevinger faces abuse accusation

Chicago White Sox pitcher **Mike Clevinger** is being investigated by Major League Baseball following an allegation of domestic violence.

Olivia Finestead posted on Instagram a photo of marks on her body and alleged the injuries were "from when he threw an iPad at me pregnant" and "finally left when he strangled me."

A lawyer for Clevinger said the pitcher denies the allegations.

The New York Mets signed veteran outfielder **Tommy Pham** to a one-year contract. ... Kansas City acquired left-hander **Josh Taylor** from Boston in exchange for shortstop **Adalberto Mondesi** and a player to be named later.

LeBron James' son **Bronny James** of Chatsworth Sierra Canyon was chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American game March 28 at Houston's Toyota Center. Corona Centennial senior **Jared McCain** also was selected, as was Sierra Canyon girls' star **Juju Watkins.**

— Luca Evans

Bill O'Brien agreed to return to the New England Patriots as their offensive coordinator, the Associated Press reported, after two seasons at the University of Alabama. ... San Francisco defensive lineman **Charles Omenihu** was arrested after a domestic violence allegation. ... As part of the NFL's program for rewarding teams that promote diversity, the 49ers were awarded five compensation draft picks in the third round. Five other teams have been awarded a total of 10 compensation picks. ... Carolina interviewed Dallas offensive coordinator **Kellen Moore** for its coaching position.

Police said Georgia football transfer **Rodarius "Rara" Thomas**, a top wide receiver for Mississippi State who was expected to take a prominent role in the Bulldogs' offense, was arrested for blocking the door to a campus dorm room and causing injuries to a 17-year-old girl during an argument. Thomas said he never struck her. ... Oklahoma State hired **Bryan Nardo** as defensive coordinator. ... Former Wisconsin wide receiver **Marcus Randle El** was convicted of first-degree homicide in the 2020 shooting deaths of two women.

UCLA hired **Kodi Whitfield** as cornerbacks coach. Whitfield, a former graduate assistant with the Bruins, played for Loyola High before starring as a wide receiver and safety as part of Stanford teams that reached three Rose Bowls.

— Ben Bolch

The Portland Thorns fired athletic trainer **Pierre Soubrier** and assistant coach **Sophie Clough**. An investigation found Soubrier illegally distributed a controlled substance to players and Clough made unwanted contact with a player. The NWSL also said Washington Spirit coach **Kris Ward** is ineligible to work in the league without the commissioner's approval after he engaged in "negative racial stereotyping toward a player."

The Pittsburgh Penguins activated defenseman **Kris Letang** off injured reserve.

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	34	14	.708		9-1	N1
2. Memphis	31	16	.660	2½	7-3	S1
3. Sacramento	27	19	.587	6	7-3	P1
4. New Orleans	26	22	.542	8	2-8	S2
5. CLIPPERS	26	24	.520	9	5-5	P2
6. Dallas	25	24	.510	9½	3-7	S3
6. Phoenix	25	24	.510	9½	5-5	P3
8. Utah	25	25	.500	10	6-4	N2
9. Minnesota	24	25	.490	10½	6-4	N3
10. Golden State	23	24	.489	10½	4-6	P4
10. Oklahoma City	23	24	.489	10½	7-3	N4
12. Portland	22	25	.468	11½	3-7	N5
13. LAKERS	22	26	.458	12	5-5	P5
14. San Antonio	14	33	.298	19½	2-8	S4
15. Houston	11	36	.234	22½	1-9	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	35	14	.714		8-2	A1
2. Philadelphia	30	16	.652	3½	8-2	A2
3. Milwaukee	30	17	.638	4	6-4	C1
4. Brooklyn	29	17	.630	4½	5-5	A3
5. Cleveland	29	20	.592	6	4-6	C2
6. Miami	27	22	.551	8	7-3	S1
7. New York	26	23	.531	9	5-5	A4
8. Atlanta	24	24	.500	10½	6-4	S2
9. Indiana	24	25	.490	11	3-7	C3
10. Chicago	22	25	.468	12	6-4	C4
11. Washington	21	26	.447	13	5-5	S3
12. Toronto	21	27	.438	13½	5-5	A5
13. Orlando	18	29	.383	16	5-5	S4
14. Charlotte	13	36	.265	22	3-7	S5
15. Detroit	12	37	.245	23	2-8	C5

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

CLIPPERS 133, LAKERS 115	Indiana 116, Chicago 110
New York 105, Cleveland 103	Miami 98, Boston 95
Denver 99, New Orleans 98	Phoenix 128, Charlotte 97
Washington 127, Dallas 126	

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at LAKERS	OFF	San Antonio	7:30 p.m.
at Orlando	5	Indiana	4 p.m.
at Philadelphia	6½	Brooklyn	4:30 p.m.
at Houston	OFF	Washington	5 p.m.
at Milwaukee	OFF	Denver	5 p.m.
at Oklahoma City	1	Atlanta	5 p.m.
at New Orleans	2	Minnesota	5 p.m.
at Portland	3½	Utah	7 p.m.
at Sacramento	4	Toronto	7 p.m.
at Golden State	OFF	Memphis	7 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Monday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, Dallas	43	484	353	1444	33.6
Embiid, Philadelphia	34	382	340	1142	33.6
Tatum, Boston	45	456	335	1397	31.0
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	36	390	307	1114	30.9

NOTES

All-Star Game tweaks format

ASSOCIATED PRESS

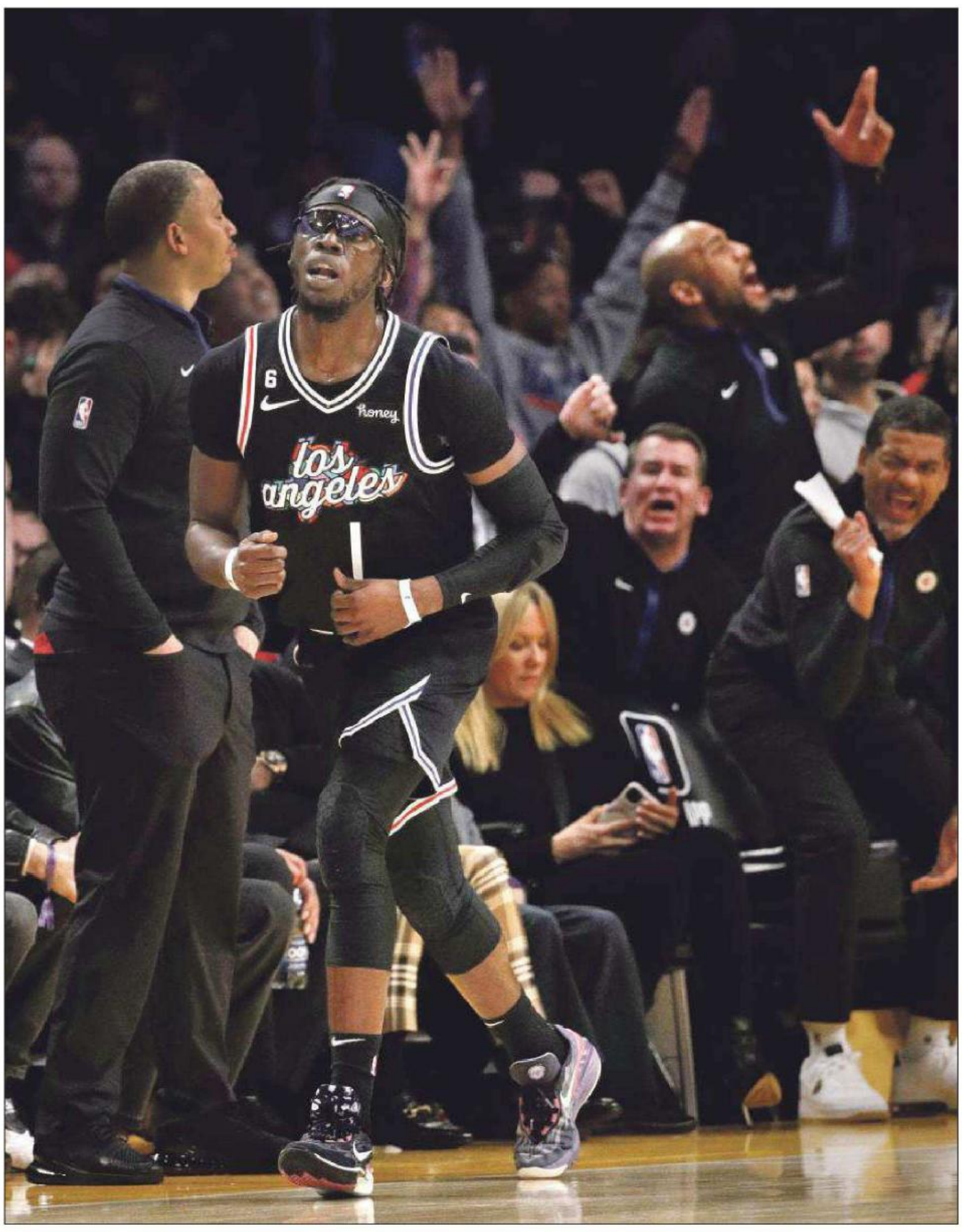
The NBA All-Star Game announced a format change: Team captains will pick their teams live on TV shortly before the Feb. 19 exhibition.

Lakers star **LeBron James** is expected to be one of the captains. The captains and starters will be announced Thursday.

Brooklyn's **Kevin Durant** was the early leader among East players, then fell slightly behind Milwaukee's **Giannis Antetokounmpo** in the most recent balloting.

Etc.

Nikola Jokic capped a 25-point, 11-rebound, 10-assist effort in his return from a two-game absence with a go-ahead floater with 16.9 seconds left, and Denver edged New Orleans 99-98. ... **Kyle Kuzma** scored 30 points and made one of two free throws to break a tie with 4.2 seconds left, lifting Washington over Dallas, 127-126. ... Star forwards **Zion Williamson** of New Orleans (hamstring) and Durant (knee) are expected to be out at least two more weeks. ... Memphis center **Steven Adams** (knee) will miss three to five weeks.



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

REGGIE JACKSON fires up the Clippers bench by hitting one of their 19 three-pointers in front of coach Tyronn Lue, helping keep Lue undefeated when coaching the Clippers against the Lakers.

Help cannot come soon enough

[**Lakers,** from B10]
at Portland, the Lakers faltered, James left to do much of the work by himself.

For the first time, James eclipsed the 40-point mark against the Clippers — the last of the 30 teams to hold him under that mark. He did it on a one-handed slam. His next dunk one possession later cut the Clippers' lead to 14 and an assist on the next to Westbrook got the Lakers within 11. After a Paul George drive, James made his career-high ninth three-point shot to cut the lead to 10. He'd finish with 46 points.

But momentum swung back to the Clippers after two Westbrook turnovers helped trigger an 8-0 run that iced the game, ensuring that coach Tyronn Lue would remain undefeated against his in-town competition.

"I made an executive decision to pull the plug," Ham said.

The Clippers hit 19 three-point shots, George leading them with 27 points while Kawhi Leonard scored 25 and Norman Powell had 22.

"We were forcing them into really tough shots," Ham said. "And they were just making them."

Westbrook scored 17 but shot four for 13 from the field. He committed only two turnovers, but they came at a brutal time, zapping the Lakers' comeback.

Help could be coming — Ham didn't say Davis would be available Wednesday against San Antonio, only that he'd be reevaluated by doctors in the morning.

Other topics before the game, though, were less vague.

Speaking about the Feb. 9 trade deadline, Pelinka again reiterated the team's desire to improve the roster. Rarely, though, has he stated the terms so clearly.

"The calculus for the Lakers is to win a championship or not. There's no in-between or incremental growth," Pelinka said. "So as we analyze opportunities, we have to do it through that lens. And, I said this at the beginning of the season, if there's an opportunity to get all the way to the end and win a championship, there's no resource we'll hold on to if we feel like that's there.

"At the same time, the completely unwise thing to do would be to shoot a bullet early and then not have it later when you have a better championship move you can make."

The Lakers' best assets in any deal would be their 2027 and 2029 first-round draft picks, and thus far, the Lakers haven't found a deal that, in their mind, is worthy of putting either (or both) into play.

Hachimura's acquisition represents something of a compromise, the Lakers able to address some roster needs in the frontcourt now while dealing for a player young enough and promising enough that there's potential for future value as well.

"You know for me, I think I can shoot the ball — threes, I can shoot midrange, I can attack the rim," Hachimura said. "Even off the ball, cutting and stuff is good for me. I can get a rebound and push the ball and stuff, so I can do a lot of stuff. I think it's going to be great."

Hachimura, who is Japanese, said playing in Los Angeles while in college at Gonzaga made him want to live in the city.

Pelinka said the hope was that the deal would give the Lakers a chance to re-sign the Hachimura in the offseason.

"First, I like the weather for sure. I have family friends here, a lot of friends here," he said. "There's a lot of Japanese people here too. I think that made me feel like this is my home.

"Close to Japan — it's only nine hours from here."

For Hachimura, that's relatively close — a reminder that proximity can mean different things based on the situation.

For the Lakers, they certainly felt closer to contention before Tuesday's uneven performance.

And whether it's a key player's injured body or the roster, they're on the clock to fix it.

CLIPPERS 133, LAKERS 115

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Leonard	35	11-16	3-4	2-9	3	3	25
Morris Sr.	9	2-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	5
Zubac	34	3-4	0-0	2-8	0	3	6
George	36	11-20	2-2	1-9	4	3	27
Mann	25	5-10	3-4	0-3	2	0	17
Jackson	25	7-13	1-1	0-3	5	2	19
Powell	25	8-12	2-2	1-4	4	3	22
Batum	23	1-2	1-2	1-6	6	2	4
Covington	19	3-3	0-0	0-4	1	3	8
Coffey	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Diabate	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		51-84	12-15	7-47	25	20	133

Shooting: Field goals, 60.7%; free throws, 80.0%

Three-point goals: 19-38 (Powell 4-5, Jackson 4-7, Mann 4-7, George 3-9, Covington 2-2, Batum 1-2, Morris Sr. 1-2, Leonard 0-4). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: 3. Blocked Shots: 9 (Covington 4, Leonard 2, Batum, George, Zubac). Turnovers: 12 (George 4, Batum 2, Jackson 2, Powell 2, Leonard, Zubac). Steals: 4 (Leonard 2, Mann 2). Technical Fouls: None.

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown Jr.	27	3-7	0-0	0-1	3	2	7
James	32	16-29	5-5	1-8	7	0	46
Bryant	28	6-11	1-1	0-7	0	1	15
Beverley	35	1-8	0-0	2-2	4	2	3
Schroder	32	3-9	0-0	0-2	0	2	7
Westbrook	24	4-13	8-13	1-1	5	1	17
Christie	17	2-3	0-0	0-2	0	0	5
Gabriel	14	4-6	0-3	4-6	0	2	8
Toscano-Anderson	11	2-5	0-0	0-1	1	2	4
Jones	5	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Pippen Jr.	5	1-2	1-2	0-0	1	0	3
Swider	5	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	0	0
Totals		42-95	15-24	9-32	21	13	115

Shooting: Field goals, 44.2%; free throws, 62.5%

Three-point goals: 16-40 (James 9-14, Bryant 2-3, Christie 1-2, Schroder 1-3, Westbrook 1-4, Brown Jr. 1-5, Beverley 1-6, Swider 0-1, Toscano-Anderson 0-2). Team Rebounds: 15. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Brown Jr., James, Jones, Schroder). Turnovers: 6 (Bryant 2, Westbrook 2, Beverley, Schroder). Steals: 8 (James 2, Schroder 2, Westbrook 2, Beverley, Christie). Technical Fouls: coach Phil Handy, 4:38 third.

CLIPPERS	37	40	21	35— 133
LAKERS	30	24	28	33— 115

A—17,604. T—2:15.

Sharpshooter Kennard could provide spark

[**Kennard,** from B10]
dressed for the team's shootaround Tuesday morning before a game against the Lakers and he said he has played in live games of three-on-three.

Kennard's expected return brings a significance that extends beyond having one of the NBA's most consistent shooters at coach Tyronn Lue's disposal again. It would also allow the coach to begin implementing changes to his rotation that he hinted at in recent weeks — shifts in which guards play and how often, decisions that Lue said hinged on Kennard being back.

"We have a plan in place," Lue said Jan. 8, "but until Luke just gets healthy, we won't see it yet."

What might be seen could include lineups in which Kennard or reserve Norman Powell acts as the lone guard alongside four wings, which Lue on Sunday called "some good lineups for us."

Kennard this season has averaged 8.7 points while shooting 53% inside the arc, to go with his 46% shooting on three-pointers, nearly 4 percentage points higher than his career average.

With Kennard not in uniform, the Clippers still had a surplus of shooting against the Lakers, their 15 first-half three-pointers one off the most made in any half of any game this season. It grew the Clippers' lead to as many as 23 points, with their 77 points the most they've ever scored before halftime against the Lakers.

The team next plays San Antonio on Thursday and hasn't ruled out Kennard, with any return likely hinging on Kennard being able to practice to gauge how he responds to a full-scale workout. The team still considers Kennard day to day, and the guard said it will be the team's call to clear him for his first game back. But he feels ready, he added.

"Just getting comfortable and getting those game-speed reps back," Kennard said. "I'm getting more comfortable with it. It's going really good, though. Faster than we thought."

If Kennard does return as soon as he hopes, the Clippers — who have battled injuries all season, able to play with their roster fully available only four times — won't be entirely whole.

Starting forward Marcus Morris Sr. suffered a contusion of his ribs in the first half and did not return. Reserve guard John Wall missed his sixth consecutive game with an abdominal injury, though he did take part in a portion of shootaround open to reporters.

LAKERS, CLIPPERS STATISTICS

Through Monday

LAKERS	PPG	RPG	APG
James	29.8	8.5	6.9
Davis	27.4	12.1	2.6
Westbrook	15.9	6.6	7.6
Walker	14.7	2.3	1.4
Bryant	12.9	7.2	0.8
Schroder	12.5	2.5	3.9
Reaves	10.8	3.1	2.2
T.Brown	6.9	3.9	0.8
Nunn	6.7	1.4	0.9
Gabriel	6.6	4.1	0.5
Beverley	5.9	3.3	2.4
Ryan	3.9	1.2	0.3
Christie	3.6	2.2	0.6
Jones	2.9	2.8	0.2
Toscano-Anderson	2.9	2.1	0.9

CLIPPERS	PPG	RPG	APG
George	23.1	5.9	5.3
Leonard	20.5	6.1	3.8
Powell	16.4	2.9	1.7
Morris	13.0	4.5	1.8
Wall	11.4	2.7	5.2
Jackson	11.0	2.3	3.6
Zubac	10.2	10.4	1.0
Kennard	8.7	2.5	1.2
Mann	8.7	3.6	2.0
Batum	6.3	4.3	1.4
Boston	5.5	1.5	0.9
Covington	5.4	3.9	1.4
Brown	4.3	3.7	0.1
Coffey	3.7	1.2	1.3

Pacers 116, Bulls 110

CHICAGO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
DeRozan	39	14-21	5-5	1-5	3	5	33
Williams	27	2-5	2-2	0-5	0	2	7
Vucevic	32	9-14	0-0	0-8	5	2	20
Dosunmu	24	3-7	1-2	1-4	3	1	7
LaVine	38	4-14	6-7	1-3	4	2	14
Caruso	28	0-3	4-4	2-7	1	5	4
White	22	3-11	0-0	0-3	3	3	8
Jones Jr.	20	5-9	0-0	3-5	0	2	10
Drummond	5	3-4	1-5	3-5	0	1	7
Totals		43-88	19-25	11-45	19	23	110

Shooting: Field goals, 48.9%; free throws, 76.0%

Three-point goals: 5-24 (Vucevic 2-2, White 2-7, Williams 1-3, Caruso 0-1, Jones Jr. 0-1, Dosunmu 0-3, LaVine 0-7). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Vucevic 2, DeRozan, Jones Jr., Williams). Turnovers: 16 (LaVine 6, Vucevic 3, Caruso 2, Dosunmu 2, DeRozan, Drummond, Williams). Steals: 5 (White 2, Caruso, Dosunmu, Williams). Technical Fouls: None.

INDIANA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hield	38	5-14	5-5	1-5	4	1	19
Nesmith	28	0-7	3-4	2-6	2	5	3
Turner	32	11-21	2-4	2-7	0	3	26
Duarte	26	2-11	5-5	2-9	3	2	11
McConnell	40	9-14	1-1	1-3	10	0	20
Mathurin	34	10-17	5-7	1-7	2	2	26
Taylor	20	5-11	1-2	4-5	1	3	11
Jackson	7	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Smith	6	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
Queen	5	0-3	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Totals		42-99	22-28	14-45	24	21	116

Shooting: Field goals, 42.4%; free throws, 78.6%

Three-point goals: 10-37 (Hield 4-11, Turner 2-7, Duarte 2-8, McConnell 1-1, Mathurin 1-5, Taylor 0-1, Nesmith 0-2, Queen 0-2). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 10 (Hield 3, Jackson 3, Nesmith 2, Taylor, Turner). Turnovers: 6 (Duarte 2, McConnell 2, Hield, Nesmith). Steals: 9 (Hield 4, McConnell 3, Duarte, Nesmith). Technical Fouls: None.

Chicago	33	29	25	23— 110
Indiana	21	25	34	36— 116

A—16,102. T—2:20.

Heat 98, Celtics 95

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Tatum	39	9-18	11-14	0-14	7	4	31
Williams	36	3-6	1-2	1-4	1	3	10
Williams III	31	5-6	1-1	2-8	0	3	11
Pritchard	42	4-14	0-0	1-7	4	3	10
White	33	7-17	7-8	1-3	6	4	23
Hauser	25	0-6	0-0	0-3	2	2	0
Jackson	14	1-3	0-0	0-5	0	1	3
Kornet	12	3-4	1-2	0-0	0	1	7
Griffin	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Totals		32-74	21-27	5-44	21	22	95

Shooting: Field goals, 43.2%; free throws, 77.8%

Three-point goals: 10-32 (Williams 3-3, Tatum 2-5, White 2-7, Pritchard 2-9, Jackson 1-3, Hauser 0-5). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Hauser 2, Williams III 2, Kornet, White). Turnovers: 17 (Tatum 7, Williams 4, Williams III 3, Pritchard 2, White). Steals: 5 (Hauser, Kornet, Pritchard, Tatum, White). Technical Fouls: None.

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Martin	11	1-5	2-2	0-0	0	5	5
Strus	36	4-10	2-2	2-7	1	2	13
Adebayo	37	12-22	6-8	4-15	1	2	30
Herro	36	4-19	0-0	0-2	6	1	9
Lowry	29	1-7	0-0	2-5	8	2	2
Highsmith	30	5-7	1-2	3-10	1	3	15
Vincent	25	1-7	4-4	0-1	3	0	7
Oladipo	22	5-16	0-1	2-6	1	2	12
O.Robinson	10	1-1	3-4	1-5	0	1	5
Totals		34-94	18-23	14-51	21	18	98

Shooting: Field goals, 36.2%; free throws, 78.3%

Three-point goals: 12-33 (Highsmith 4-4, Strus 3-6, Oladipo 2-8, Martin 1-2, Vincent 1-2, Herro 1-7, Lowry 0-4). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 2 (Adebayo, O.Robinson). Turnovers: 7 (Adebayo 3, Lowry 2, Martin, Oladipo). Steals: 7 (Adebayo 2, Herro 2, Strus 2, Highsmith). Technical Fouls: None.

Boston	30	28	24	13— 95
Miami	32	18	25	23— 98

A—19,705. T—2:21.

Knicks 105, Cavaliers 103

CLEVELAND

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
E.Mobley	37	6-11	0-0	1-7	3	4	12
Okoro	30	3-5	2-3	3-6	5	4	9
Allen	38	12-17	0-0	1-12	1	1	24
Garland	34	6-17	8-10	1-4	6	0	22
Mitchell	38	9-24	0-0	2-8	8	4	24
LeVert	20	3-6	1-3	1-2	3	1	9
Rubio	13	1-4	0-0	0-0	2	2	3
Love	12	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Stevens	6	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	1	0
Wade	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Osman	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		40-87	11-16	10-41	29	19	103

Shooting: Field goals, 46.0%; free throws, 68.8%

Three-point goals: 12-33 (Mitchell 6-14, LeVert 2-4, Garland 2-6, Okoro 1-3, Rubio 1-3, E.Mobley 0-1, Love 0-1, Osman 0-1). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (E.Mobley 2, Allen, Mitchell). Turnovers: 10 (E.Mobley 3, Allen 2, Rubio 2, Garland, LeVert, Okoro). Steals: 8 (Mitchell 4, Garland 2, E.Mobley, Rubio). Technical Fouls: None.

NEW YORK

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barrett	32	5-12	3-4	1-4	1	4	16
Randle	37	11-21	6-7	4-13	4	3	36
Sims	25	1-1	0-0	1-4	0	1	2
Brunson	35	5-13	3-4	0-2	4	3	14
Grimes	36	4-9	0-0	0-1	3	1	10
Quickley	27	4-8	0-1	0-5	6	2	9
Hartenstein	22	2-3	0-0	3-9	4	1	4
McBride	12	1-2	1-3	0-1	3	3	3
Toppin	10	4-6	1-2	0-3	0	0	11
Totals		37-75	14-21	9-42	25	18	105

Shooting: Field goals, 49.3%; free throws, 66.7%

Three-point goals: 17-33 (Randle 8-12, Barrett 3-5, Toppin 2-3, Grimes 2-7, Quickley 1-2, Brunson 1-3, McBride 0-1). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 3 (Barrett, Grimes, Hartenstein). Turnovers: 15 (Randle 5, Grimes 2, Hartenstein 2, Quickley 2, Sims 2, Barrett, Brunson). Steals: 4 (Barrett, Brunson, Hartenstein, Quickley). Technical Fouls: None.

Cleveland	27	24	24	28— 103
New York	34	19	27	25— 105

A—19,812. T—2:13.

Nuggets 99, Pelicans 98

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown	33	4-10	0-0	0-2	0	2	11
Gordon	23	4-7	2-4	0-4	3	4	11
Jokic	36	11-15	1-2	2-11	10	2	25
Caldwell-Pope	30	3-9	0-0	1-2	4	4	7
Murray	40	11-21	0-0	0-1	7	0	25
Nnaji	24	1-5	2-2	3-7	0	2	4
Braun	20	3-5	1-1	1-2	1	1	7
Green	17	1-3	4-4	0-2	1	2	7
Cancar	14	1-5	0-0	0-3	1	3	2
Totals		39-80	10-13	7-34	27	20	99

Shooting: Field goals, 48.8%; free throws, 76.9%

Three-point goals: 11-33 (Brown 3-7, Murray 3-8, Jokic 2-4, Gordon 1-1, Green 1-1, Caldwell-Pope 1-4, Braun 0-2, Cancar 0-3, Nnaji 0-3). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Brown 2, Caldwell-Pope, Gordon, Nnaji). Turnovers: 12 (Gordon 3, Jokic 3, Caldwell-Pope 2, Green 2, Murray 2). Steals: 8 (Murray 3, Caldwell-Pope 2, Brown, Green, Jokic). Technical Fouls: Nuggets, 5:59 second.

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hayes	23	0-3	4-4	3-4	3	0	4
Murphy III	33	3-10	1-1	0-6	1	1	10
Valanciunas	18	5-9	3-5	3-9	0	4	14
Jones	23	3-8	0-0	5-6	1	4	6
McCollum	35	9-22	2-2	0-4	4	0	20
Alvarado	27	8-12	0-0	1-1	3	0	17
Hernangomez	23	5-7	2-2	0-6	2	2	12
Nance Jr.	22	3-6	4-4	2-6	0	1	10
Graham	18	0-3	1-2	0-0	2	0	1
Daniels	7	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Temple	6	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	2	2
Totals		38-85	17-20	14-43	18	14	98

Shooting: Field goals, 44.7%; free throws, 85.0%

Three-point goals: 5-26 (Murphy III 3-5, Valanciunas 1-1, Alvarado 1-4, Temple 0-1, Hayes 0-2, Jones 0-2, Graham 0-3, McCollum 0-8). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 3 (Jones, Nance Jr., Valanciunas). Turnovers: 14 (McCollum 6, Jones 4, Valanciunas 2, Graham, Hernangomez). Steals: 5 (Jones 3, Hernangomez, Murphy III). Technical Fouls: None.

Denver	28	35	20	16— 99
New Orleans	24	23	27	24— 98

A—14,699. T—2:04.

Wizards 127, Mavericks 126

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Kispert	33	4-10	4-4	1-7	1	1	14
Kuzma	36	12-23	4-5	0-5	2	2	30
Gafford	18	2-3	5-8	1-7	3	6	9
Beal	30	7-17	6-9	0-0	4	5	22
Morris	27	5-9	2-2	0-3	5	0	13
Avdija	32	3-5	9-11	2-10	3	3	15
Wright	21	4-7	0-0	1-3	6	0	10
Gill	19	2-3	2-2	1-4	1	4	6
Barton	15	3-5	0-0	0-2	3	0	8
Gibson	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals		42-83	32-41	6-41	28	22	127

Shooting: Field goals, 50.6%; free throws, 78.0%

Three-point goals: 11-30 (Beal 2-2, Barton 2-3, Wright 2-5, Kispert 2-6, Kuzma 2-10, Morris 1-3, Avdija 0-1). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (Beal, Gafford, Kuzma). Turnovers: 10 (Kuzma 3, Beal 2, Kispert 2, Avdija, Barton, Gafford). Steals: 7 (Avdija 3, Wright 3, Kispert). Technical Fouls: None.

DALLAS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Finney-Smith	30	4-7	2-2	1-5	2	4	12
Hardaway Jr.	33	2-9	0-0	0-3	3	2	5
Powell	33	8-12	6-7	4-9	1	4	22
Dinwiddie	34	6-15	5-5	0-1	8	3	20
Doncic	37	16-29	9-12	0-15	6	3	41
Green	32	7-9	0-0	2-3	1	5	16
Bullock	24	1-5	0-0	1-1	3	2	3
Bertans	12	3-3	0-0	0-1	0	2	7
Totals		47-89	22-26	8-38	24	25	126

Shooting: Field goals, 52.8%; free throws, 84.6%

Three-point goals: 10-30 (Dinwiddie 3-7, Green 2-3, Finney-Smith 2-4, Bertans 1-1, Bullock 1-4, Hardaway Jr. 1-7, Doncic 0-4). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Bullock, Powell). Turnovers: 9 (Doncic 3, Dinwiddie 2, Powell 2, Green, Hardaway Jr.). Steals: 6 (Bertans, Doncic, Finney-Smith, Green, Hardaway Jr., Powell). Technical Fouls: Doncic, 9:48 third

Washington	32	33	34	28— 127
Dallas	28	32	37	29— 126

A—20,077. T—2:25.

Suns 128, Hornets 97

CHARLOTTE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
McDaniels	34	7-16	0-0	2-10	2	5	15
Washington	32	4-12	1-1	0-2	2	2	9
Plumlee	25	6-10	5-6	2-6	4	2	17
McGowens	21	2-8	1-1	2-4	3	2	5
Rozier	36	7-21	1-2	0-4	5	0	19
Smith Jr.	27	4-13	0-0	0-3	3	3	8
Maledon	18	3-5	0-0	0-2	0	1	7
Richards	17	1-2	2-4	2-3	0	2	4
Thor	9	2-2	1-1	0-0	0	2	5
Bouknight	5	0-2	0-0	0-2	0	0	0
Jones	5	1-1	0-1	1-1	0	0	2
Williams	5	2-4	2-2	1-2	0	2	6
Totals		39-96	13-18	10-39	19	21	97

Shooting: Field goals, 40.6%; free throws, 72.2%

Three-point goals: 6-25 (Rozier 4-9, Maledon 1-1, McDaniels 1-5, Bouknight 0-1, McGowens 0-1, Smith Jr. 0-2, Washington 0-6). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Richards 3, Rozier, Washington). Turnovers: 12 (Richards 3, McDaniels 2, Plumlee 2, Smith Jr. 2, Bouknight, Washington, Williams). Steals: 10 (Washington 4, McDaniels 2, Rozier 2, Smith Jr., Thor). Technical Fouls: McDaniels, 10:56 fourth.

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	21	0-7	0-0	1-9	1	0	0
Johnson	17	9-11	0-0	1-3	3	2	24
Biyombo	31	3-6	0-0	1-9	4	3	6
Bridges	30	7-16	2-2	0-2	3	2	18
Paul	27	6-9	0-0	1-5	11	1	14
Saric	24	6-9	4-4	4-8	3	4	19
Okogie	24	2-6	3-4	2-7	2	1	9
S.Lee	20	1-6	0-0	1-4	6	0	2
D.Lee	16	3-6	3-3	0-2	0	0	11
Landale	14	6-13	0-0	3-3	3	5	15
Wainright	5	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2
Washington Jr.	5	3-4	0-0	1-3	2	1	8
Totals		47-94	12-13	15-55	38	21	128

Shooting: Field goals, 50.0%; free throws, 92.3%

Three-point goals: 22-40 (Johnson 6-7, Saric 3-4, Landale 3-7, D.Lee 2-3, Paul 2-3, Washington Jr. 2-3, Okogie 2-4, Bridges 2-5, Craig 0-4). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 10 (Biyombo 5, Okogie 2, Bridges, S.Lee, Saric). Turnovers: 17 (Landale 4, Biyombo 3, Craig 3, Saric 3, Bridges 2, Okogie, S.Lee). Steals: 3 (Bridges, Craig, Wainright). Technical Fouls: None.

Charlotte	15	32	30	20— 97
Phoenix	36	22	40	30— 128

A—17,071. T—2:03.

NG HAN GUAN Associated Press

JESSICA PEGULA came up with few answers during her 6-4, 6-1 quarterfinal loss to Victoria Azarenka.

Linette pulls surprise again

Unseeded player tops Pliskova to advance to women's semifinals at Australian Open.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Two days after advancing to her first Grand Slam tournament quarterfinal, unseeded Magda Linette went one better and moved into the Australian Open semifinals.

The 30-year-old Linette beat Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 7-5 on Wednesday, adding the former No. 1 to the list of top players she has beaten at Melbourne Park during this tournament.

Linette, who had lost seven of nine previous matches against Pliskova, has defeated Anett Kontaveit, Ekaterina Alexandrova and WTA Finals champion Caroline Garcia in successive rounds.

A player from Poland was favored to reach the latter stages of the tournament, but it was top-seeded Iga Swiatek whom everyone would have expected — and not Linette.

"It's so emotional. I can't really believe it," Linette said. "I tried to stay composed and took my chances when I could."

Linette will play No. 5 Aryna Sabalenka, who beat unseeded Donna Vekic 6-3, 6-2 in a later quarterfinal. The women's semifinals are set for Thursday night.

The other women's semifinalists were determined Tuesday. Two-time former Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka will play Wimbledon titleholder Elena Rybakina for a chance to play in Saturday night's final. Rybakina beat Swiatek in the fourth round.

Azarenka won the 2012 and 2013 championships in Australia, but she had not been back to the final four there since then.

Now 33 and a mother — she walked out into Rod Laver Arena wearing a jersey from her 7-year-old son's favorite soccer team, Paris Saint-Germain, and beat Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-1.

Rybakina, the reigning Wimbledon champion, defeated 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 6-2, 6-4.

Later Wednesday, the remaining men's semifinalists were to be determined. Unseeded Americans Ben Shelton and Tommy Paul were set to play before nine-time champion Novak Djokovic was to take on Andrey Rublev.

Djokovic was looking to qualify for his 44th Grand Slam tournament semifinal, and a win in that match Friday would advance him to his 33rd major singles final Sunday night.

The other men's semifinal Friday features third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas against Karen Khachanov.

TENNIS RESULTS

$54-MILLION AUSTRALIAN OPEN
At Melbourne
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (quarterfinals)—Karen Khachanov (18), Russia, d. Sebastian Korda (29), 7-6 (5), 6-3, 3-0, retired; Stefano Tsitsipas (3), Greece, d. Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (quarterfinals)—Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, d. Jelena Ostapenko (17), Latvia, 6-2, 6-4; Magda Linette, Poland, d. Karolina Pliskova (30), Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-5; Aryna Sabalenka (5), Belarus, d. Donna Vekic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-2; Victoria Azarenka (24), Belarus, d. Jessica Pegula (3), 6-4, 6-1.

MEN'S DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Hugo Nys, Monaco-Jan Zielinski, Poland, d. Arthur Rinderknech-Benjamin Bonzi, France, 6-1, 6-4; Marcel Granollers, Spain-Horacio Zeballos (8), Argentina, d. John Peers, Australia-Andreas Mies (14), Germany, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-2; Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania-Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, d. Storm Sanders, Australia-Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, 7-6 (6), 2-6, 6-4.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (third round)—Caroline Dolehide, and Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, d. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada-Giuliana Olmos (3), Mexico, 7-5, 6-2; Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Desirae Krawczyk (6), d. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, and Tereza Mihalikova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-1; Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine-Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania d. Elise-Mertens, Belgium-Storm Sanders, Australia (4), 7-6 (6), 2-6, 6-4.

(Quarterfinals)—Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara (10), Japan, d. Caroline Dolehide, and Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 6-3, 6-3; Barbora Krejcikova-Katerina Siniakova (1), Czech Republic, d. Demi Schuurs, Netherlands-Desirae Krawczyk (6), 6-2, 6-3;

MIXED DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Rohan Bopanna-Sania Mirza, India, d. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia-David Vega Hernandez, Spain, walkover.

Roggin left indelible mark on L.A.

[**Media,** from B10]
tag line: "Fred'll show it to you!"

"I did say … that during an earthquake your chances were 1 in 3 of being crushed by a Fred Roggin billboard," Keith Olbermann said in that 1989 story.

Olbermann was the Channel 2 sports guy then, before he became a household name at ESPN. Roggin stayed in L.A., realizing over the years that it would not matter if Fred could show it to you if you already had seen it.

With apologies to older readers, a history lesson for younger readers: For a time, you had to wait for the 11 p.m. news to see Dodgers and Lakers highlights, and Fred could show them to you first. Then ESPN came along, and Fred still could show them to you, but hours after ESPN could. Then came the internet, and the smartphone, and you could see whatever highlights you want, whenever you want.

"If we just sit there and tell people what they already know," Roggin said, "there is no reason for them to watch us."

That is not just an issue for Channel 4, or any other television station. That is an urgent dilemma for any media outlet, including this one.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

FRED ROGGIN appreciated his role in L.A.: "I've been the luckiest and most blessed guy in the world."

For some fans, the final score is still news at 11 p.m., or in the morning paper. Not everyone looks at a screen at night. But, for those who do, how do you attract viewers or readers?

Roggin more or less ceded the hard-core sports audience to ESPN and focused on everyone else, with "Hall of Shame" blooper reels and "Roggin's Heroes" segments, the "Going Roggin" sports-talk-on-TV show, and "The Challenge" as a game show after the game.

And, on Friday night, even in a market of 20 million people, he featured high school football.

"I always believed that was a point where we could carry our flag," he said. "When you pick up The L.A. Times, or check it out online, the lead story is not about a high school kid or a high school game."

On some days, it is. The Times has committed to the dynamic duo of Eric Sondheimer and Luca Evans on high schools because The Times sees, as Roggin did, a chance to cultivate a new audience.

It might work. It might not.

That, really, was the essence of Roggin. Not everything he tried worked, but he tried. In this era, when teams and leagues offer scores and highlights and interviews, shouldn't a local sports report offer something different?

"That's not how local sports is approached around the country," Roggin said. "It's scores and highlights. With all due respect to everyone that does it — and does such a magnificent job — it just doesn't carry the relevance it used to.

"That is why you see local sportscasts dying."

There still will be local sportscasts in Los Angeles, on Channel 4 and beyond. After Thursday, however, they no longer will air live from Mr. Roggin's Neighborhood.

Like it or not, Shiffrin secures GOAT status

[**Elliott,** from B10]
World Cup triumph by winning a giant slalom race at Kronplatz in South Tyrol, Italy.

Shiffrin led from start to finish at the Kronplatz resort in the Italian Dolomites, crossing 45 hundredths of a second ahead of world champion Lara Gut-Behrami and 1.43 seconds ahead of home favorite and 2020 overall champion Federica Brignone after also posting the fastest first run.

Shiffrin said switching from speed events to technical races gave her confidence Tuesday. "Coming here, the number 83 was almost completely out of my mind today," she said. "It was like we're just resetting the season from square one. It's very fitting that it would come in the moment when I'm thinking about it the least and don't expect it at all."

Shiffrin passed fellow American Lindsey Vonn for the most World Cup wins by a woman. Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark holds the overall record of 86.

"I don't think there are words to explain all the feelings," Shiffrin said. "In the end of it, it's like there's too much excitement to feel. I don't know if that makes sense. So it's something you can't explain. So I just try to breathe a bit and enjoy it."

Shiffrin said her admiration for Stenmark wouldn't change even if she passes his record. "His name is in history as a legend of the sport that people will remember forever," she told reporters. "Maybe they'll remember him longer than they'll remember me. We're all still talking about him. That's a pretty incredible mark to leave on the sport."

As skiers, Vonn and Shiffrin are a study in contrast: Vonn was a daredevil, a speed demon, often crashing wildly into fences. She thrived in the speed events — the downhill and super-giant slalom. Shiffrin's impeccable technique allows her to excel in the technical races, the slalom and giant slalom, but she's swift and versatile enough to be the only skier to have won a race in all six World Cup disciplines — the downhill, super-G, slalom, giant slalom, combined and parallel slalom.

Shiffrin matched Vonn's 82 wins Jan. 8 by triumphing in a giant slalom in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, the 233rd World Cup race of her career. Vonn needed 395 races to reach that mark. Shiffrin finished second in a slalom Jan. 10 in Austria in her first attempt to pass Vonn.

"I knew from the very beginning that she would be the one to break all the records. But to do it at such a young age is really impressive," Vonn said in a diary she wrote for the Associated Press.

"Catching Ingemar Stenmark's men's mark of 86 wins was always the ultimate goal for me, but with the injuries I sustained, it just wasn't possible. For her, the sky's the limit. I don't think that Stenmark is necessarily the benchmark. She's going to set the new standard, and we'll have to wait and see how high she can go."

The mountaintop

Most wins in women's Alpine skiing World Cup events:

83	Mikaela Shiffrin U.S., 2012-active
82	Lindsey Vonn U.S., 2001-19
62	Annemarie Moser-Proll Austria, 1969-80
55	Vreni Schneider Switzerland, 1984-95
46	Renate Gotschl Austria, 1993-2009

After Shiffrin tied Vonn's win total, she screamed for joy, releasing the pent-up nerves that she said had ignited a rash on her face. But she later cried on the victory stand because it triggered memories of her father, Jeff, who died as the result of head injuries he suffered in a fall in Colorado in February 2020.

Jeff Shiffrin, 65, was an anesthesiologist by trade and a photographer by hobby, known for snapping photos of his daughter on the World Cup trail. Shortly before her first World Cup win, in 2012, he told her to memorize the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner" because "if you ever win, you better sing it." She added, "And so I always think about him when I'm up there."

His death initially plunged her into a depression. She considered quitting. "There was a really long time that I didn't really feel like it was worth it to care about anything," she said in a 2021 interview on the "Today" show, "so it seemed like I'm not going to ski race again because the most fundamental thing of an athlete is that you have to care about your sport and you have to care about doing well at your sport, and I just didn't."

She slowly regained her passion. Winner of Olympic gold in the slalom in 2014 and gold in the giant slalom and silver in the combined in 2018, she went to the 2022 Beijing Games with great expectations.

For reasons she still can't explain, she skied out on the first run of the giant slalom and slalom races, finished ninth in the super-G, 18th in the downhill, and clipped a gate and crashed out early in the slalom portion of the combined event. In the mixed team parallel event, she was part of a fourth-place finish for the United States.

"There's going to be a whole chaotic mess of crap that people are saying about how I just fantastically failed these last couple of weeks in the moments that actually counted," she said after the combined event. "It's really strange, but I'm not even afraid of that right now and maybe it's because I don't have any emotional energy to give anymore."

Yet she found the motivation to return to the World Cup circuit after the Games and win her fourth overall title. She's leading the standings this year too.

Shiffrin refused to be defined by her Olympic failures. She got back up, stronger than ever. GOATS do that.

Farmers features a strong field despite defections to LIV

Five of last year's top 20 finishers joined the rival tour and are barred by the PGA.

BY KIRK KENNEY

As to the challenge from an upstart golf tour, the PGA Tour includes enough talent and tradition that it can take a LIV and let live attitude toward the subject.

Not that LIV Golf can be completely ignored.

There will be some noticeable absences at Torrey Pines for this week's Farmers Insurance Open.

There were 16 golfers — 10% of those who teed it up — from last year's Farmers field who later joined LIV and are barred from returning this year. Five of them finished in the top 20 last year: Cameron Tringale (tied for third), Joaquin Niemann (T-6th), Pat Perez (T-6th), Marc Leishman (T-16th) and Talor Gooch (T-20th).

Farmers tournament director Marty Gorsich shrugged it off recently, offering this zinger to Golf Digest: "LIV Golf didn't take our best golfers. They took the villains and took the guys whose names were bigger than their games."

Perez is a local and Leishman a former Farmers champion (2020), but you'd need to run your finger down to 25th place, where Dustin Johnson is listed, to find a "name" finisher missing this year.

The 2021 Farmers champion, Patrick Reed, was well out of contention in the final round a year ago, finishing tied for 46th. Three other "name" players — Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka and Phil Mickelson — didn't even make it to the weekend, missing the cut.

At a glance

- **Event:** Farmers Insurance Open
- **When:** Today through Saturday
- **Course:** Torrey Pines GC—South Course (Yardage: 7,765, Par: 72) and North Course (Yardage: 7,258, Par: 72) at San Diego.
- **Prize money:** $8.7 million. **Winner's share:** $1.566 million.
- **TV:** Wednesday-Thursday, noon-4 p.m. (Golf Channel); Friday, noon-2 p.m. (Golf Channel), 2-5 p.m. (Ch. 2); Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Golf Channel), 1:30-5 p.m. (Ch. 2).
- **Defending champion:** Luke List

"Our consumer isn't saying, 'Oh, you've got 11 of the top 20 this year and you had 13 last year. I'm not going now,' " Gorsich said. "That's not a factor. We've got plenty of big names."

This year's field includes five of the top 10 players in the world rankings.

Jon Rahm, ranked No. 4, leads the way coming off Sunday's one-stroke victory in the American Express at La Quinta. Local favorite Xander Shauffele (ranked No. 6), who finished two strokes behind Rahm, also returns, along with Will Zalatoris (No. 7), Justin Thomas (No. 8) and Collin Morikawa (No. 9), and two-time Farmers champion Jason Day.

Longtime golf fans may recall when promoting players took precedence. And, of course, for the better part of two decades, tournament publicity required only two words: Tiger Woods.

"You don't see us going too overboard about promoting players now," Gorsich said. "Tiger Woods was different. Tiger was an anomaly that transcended golf. He was an entertainment figure that people who had no interest in golf felt compelled they had to come see."

The Farmers is marketed these days as an event. Its slogan is "See you at Torrey," not see so-and-so at Torrey.

For many, it's another excuse for a party amid the world's most beautiful backdrops.

You will see several fans wearing colorful lookalike outfits from head to toe as they follow Rickie Fowler. The man from Murrieta hasn't contended here in a decade but remains tremendously popular.

The hardcore fans appreciate great golf as much as great golfers. They come away seeing both, often from up-and-comers on the cusp of making a name for themselves.

"If you look at many of the guys who have won our tournament," Gorsich said, "many of them weren't a big name when they won our event."

Since 2009, the Farmers has been something of a coming-out party.

Luke List (2022) and Rahm (2017) earned their first PGA Tour wins at the Farmers. Bubba Watson (2011) and Nick Watney (2009) recorded their second tour victories at Torrey, and Day (2015), Scott Stallings (2014), Brandt Snedeker (2012) and Ben Crane (2010) picked up the third title of their careers here.

In the end, Gorsich says, the golf is going to win out. The crowd roars for a tournament-winning birdie regardless of whose name is on the bag.

"You've got to be at the top of your game to be out here and compete," Gorsich said. "You don't come catch lightning in a bottle and sustain that for four days at Torrey Pines."

Kenney writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL Associated Press

IOWA STATE'S Jaren Holmes scored 23 points in the No. 12 Cyclones' 80-76 victory over No. 5 Kansas State.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 12 Iowa State pulls off upset

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jaren Holmes matched his season high with 23 points, and No. 12 Iowa State held on to beat No. 5 Kansas State 80-76 on Tuesday night in Ames, Iowa.

The Cyclones (15-4, 6-2 Big 12) moved into a three-way tie atop the conference standings with the Wildcats and Texas.

Gabe Kalscheur contributed 19 points for Iowa State. Osun Osunniyi finished with 16.

Markquis Nowell led Kansas State (17-3, 6-2) with 23 points.

Iowa State improved to 11-0 at home.

The Cyclones have not lost back-to-back games this season.

Results

MEN'S TOP 25

No. 12 Iowa State 80, No. 5 Kansas State 76
No. 10 Texas 89, Oklahoma State 75
No. 11 Texas Christian 79, Oklahoma 52
No. 20 Miami 86, Florida State 63
No. 24 Clemson 72, Georgia Tech 51

at No. 10 Texas 89, Oklahoma State 75: Marcus Carr scored 21 points, and the Longhorns (17-3, 6-2 Big 12) earned a regular-season sweep of the Cowboys (11-9, 3-5).

Timmy Allen had 17 points for Texas, which improved to 10-2 under interim coach Rodney Terry. He took over the team in mid-December when Chris Beard was suspended and then fired three weeks later.

Kalib Boone and John-Michael Wright each scored 18 to lead Oklahoma State.

at No. 11 Texas Christian 79, Oklahoma 52: Mike Miles Jr. scored 23 points, and the Horned Frogs (16-4, 5-3 Big 12) led throughout in a win over the Sooners (11-9, 2-6). Even without injured big man Eddie Lampkin Jr., TCU followed up its 23-point win at then-No. 2 Kansas by scoring the first 11 points.

No. 20 Miami 86, at Florida State 63: Nijel Pack and Isaiah Wong scored 18 points each as the Hurricanes (16-4, 7-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) ended a nine-game head-to-head slide against the Seminoles (7-14, 5-5).

at No. 24 Clemson 72, Georgia Tech 51: PJ Hall scored 17 points, and the Tigers (17-4, 9-1) used a fast start to put away the Yellow Jackets (8-12, 1-9) and continue their surprising first-place start in the ACC. Georgia Tech has lost its last six.

Etc.

Toledo overcame a 43-point effort by Eastern Michigan's Emoni Bates to earn an 84-79 home win. ... Green Bay fired coach Will Ryan, three days after the Phoenix suffered their 11th consecutive loss. Ryan is the son of former Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan.

PRO CALENDAR

	WED 25	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29
LAKERS	SAN ANTONIO 7:30 SpecSN			at Boston 5:30 Ch. 7	
CLIPPERS		SAN ANTONIO 7:30 BSSC		at Atlanta 4:30 BSSC	at Cleveland 4 BSSC
KINGS			at Florida 4 BSW	at Tampa Bay 4 BSW	
DUCKS		at Colorado 6 BSW		ARIZONA 7:30 BSW	

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
4:30 p.m.	Brooklyn at Philadelphia	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
7 p.m.	Memphis at Golden State	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
7:30 p.m.	San Antonio at Lakers	**TV:** SpecSN **R:** 710, 1330
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
3:30 p.m.	Xavier at Connecticut	**TV:** FS1
4 p.m.	South Carolina at Florida	**TV:** ESPN2
4 p.m.	Georgia at Tennessee	**TV:** SEC
4 p.m.	Dayton at Rhode Island	**TV:** CBSSN
4 p.m.	West Virginia at Texas Tech	**TV:** ESPNU
4 p.m.	Wisconsin at Maryland	**TV:** Big Ten
4 p.m.	Wake Forest at Pittsburgh	**TV:** ACC
4 p.m.	Northwestern at Nebraska	**TV:** FS2
5:30 p.m.	Butler at Providence	**TV:** FS1
6 p.m.	Texas A&M at Auburn	**TV:** ESPN2
6 p.m.	Mississippi State at Alabama	**TV:** SEC
6 p.m.	St. John's at Creighton	**TV:** CBSSN
6 p.m.	Tulane at Wichita State	**TV:** ESPNU
6 p.m.	Indiana at Minnesota	**TV:** Big Ten
6 p.m.	Louisville at Boston College	**TV:** ACC
7 p.m.	Chicago State at Stanford	**TV:** Pac-12
8 p.m.	Utah State at San Diego State	**TV:** CBSSN **R:** 760
FIGURE SKATING		
10 a.m.	ISU European Championships, men's short program	**TV:** E!
GOLF		
Noon	Farmers Insurance Open, first round	**TV:** Golf
11:30 p.m.	DP World Tour, Dubai Desert Classic, first round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
4 p.m.	New York Rangers at Toronto	**TV:** TNT
6:30 p.m.	Columbus at Edmonton	**TV:** TNT
7 p.m.	CHL/NHL Prospects Game	**TV:** NHL
SOCCER		
1 p.m.	Rio de la Plata series, Fenix at Danubio	**TV:** GOLTV
4:30 p.m.	Rio de la Plata series, Cerro at Montevideo	**TV:** GOLTV
5 p.m.	Honduras, Olimpia at Progreso	**TV:** FOXD
TENNIS		
12:30 a.m. (Thu.)	Australian Open, women's semifinals	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND

EDUARDO VERDUGO Associated Press

ALEJANDRO ZENDEJAS, above with Club América, is coveted by the U.S. and Mexican national teams. He will play for the U.S. in an exhibition match tonight.

Zendejas is not pledging to U.S.

[**Hernández,** from B10]

a U.S. player under FIFA rules.

Expected to make his U.S. senior national team debut Wednesday night against Serbia at recently renamed BMO Stadium, Zendejas was suddenly a symbol of the Mexican federation's dysfunction.

Then he opened his mouth, revealing his participation in the United States' January camp wasn't necessarily indicative of his long-term plans.

Speaking after the team's training session Tuesday, Zendejas was noncommittal about his international future beyond the upcoming match.

"I'm enjoying the moment, taking the opportunity that I have this week," he said. "I have my mind focused on tomorrow's game."

He repeated the phrase over and over, in English and in Spanish.

He didn't say his future was with Mexico, but he didn't say it wasn't either.

And who could blame him?

Mexico was eliminated in the group stage of the World Cup and its federation is a mess, but the U.S. team has its own problems.

Like the Mexicans, the Americans don't have a coach and they don't have direction.

How can Zendejas commit his future to a program that doesn't know where it's headed?

The Mexican-born and Texas-raised Zendejas is considered by FIFA to be a U.S. player because he represented the country at the U-17 World Cup in 2015.

Though Zendejas turned professional with FC Dallas of Major League Soccer, he became established in Mexico's Liga MX. He played for Mexico at the U-23 and senior levels but did so without filing the necessary paperwork, resulting in forfeits and fines for El Tri.

Ironically, because he never filed for a one-time switch in affiliation to play for Mexico, he remains eligible to do so as long as he doesn't play in an official match. The United States' game against Serbia is an exhibition and therefore won't count.

Asked whether he would be open to playing in Nations League and Gold Cup games later this year that would permanently tie him to the U.S., Zendejas replied: "Hopefully, tomorrow will be a great game for the whole team. Hopefully, get that win, and then on a personal level, I hope it's a great game for me, and then I'll probably focus on the future once we get to that standpoint again."

To repeat: Who could blame him?

Interim U.S. coach Anthony Hudson said Zendejas' recruitment was initiated last year by Gregg Berhalter, who coached the United States at the World Cup.

However, Berhalter probably won't return as coach, as his decision to sit Gio Reyna resulted in a "Game of Thrones"-like feud with Reyna's parents that has wrecked the program.

And even if Berhalter returns, does Zendejas want to play for the same bozo who benched a world-class talent in Reyna in favor of a glorified worker bee like Tim Weah?

What if the U.S. miraculously lands José Mourinho or some other foreign pragmatist who values an attacker's defensive work rate over creativity?

As it stands, the diminutive Zendejas would already be competing for playing time with a group of wingers that includes Reyna, Weah and Christian Pulisic, his former youth national team roommate.

Say Zendejas beats out Reyna for a place in the team's starting 11. Who is to say Reyna's parents won't try to sabotage him the way they did Berhalter?

In this case, Zendejas might as well take a wait-and-see approach. He has one career. He should know where he's taking his next step.

This alone is an indictment on American soccer culture, as Zendejas' decision should be as easy as a tap-in from inside the six-yard box.

The U.S.-Mexico rivalry is cyclical, dominated by one team over a certain period, controlled by the other in the next. The Americans are now on top. They have the better talent.

That advantage has been diminished by the events of the last couple of months.

Mexican soccer might be an active dumpster fire, but the U.S. has to demonstrate its self-destructive tendencies won't land it in the same place.

Secret to Neal's soccer success? A doting mom

Galaxy defender may get his first cap against Serbia with his mother in the stands.

By Kevin Baxter

When Jalen Neal got the news he would be called into his first training camp with the men's national soccer team, he was told to keep quiet until the roster was announced.

That wasn't a problem, he said.

"I told my close family and stuff," he said. "But otherwise, no. I'm pretty good with private information."

For his mother, Sarah, however, the secrecy was a problem.

"That was really ..." she began. "It was hard."

Hard because the national team call-up was as much a reward for the mother as it was for her son, a 19-year-old defender with the Galaxy. A reward for the countless hours Sarah Neal, a single soccer mom, spent driving her son to and from practices and tournaments. A reward for the weekends and vacations, the late nights and early mornings that she devoted.

"Jalen and I spent so much time in the car together, eating dinners and doing homework. It just seems so draining," she said. "But it was absolutely worth it."

Neal will get a chance for his first cap with the national team Wednesday when the U.S. faces Serbia at BMO Stadium in its first game of the 2026 World Cup cycle. The U.S. will close its weeklong January camp Saturday by facing Colombia at Dignity Health Sports Park.

But Neal said the games are just a bonus.

"The amount of playing time I get doesn't really get to me," he said. "What I can get out of the trainings and just being around all these guys that I've met that have so much more experience than me — just, you know, feeding off them — they can be a huge benefit for my career.

"You just learn little professionalism tips, small things about taking care of your body, your mind. As a young guy, you see what these older guys are going through off the field. And it makes you realize how many responsibilities I have in the future. You can only focus on soccer right now."

PATRICK T. FALLON AFP/Getty Images

JALEN NEAL, dribbling against Guadalajara last year, might have a bigger role with Galaxy this season.

There are other benefits to a first-team call-up, which Neal was only too happy to share, standing up during a Zoom call to model a blue Nike hoodie and a pair of black sweatpants, part of the swag package he received when camp opened last weekend.

"The perks that come with the men's team are a little different," he said.

Neal played his first game in a Long Beach-area league when he was 3. At 5, he was playing with kids three years older and his soccer IQ was off the charts because he already understood how to play the ball back to the keeper to build an attack. His teammates' parents would insist he was going the wrong way, but in fact Neal's soccer fundamentals were sounder than theirs.

Neal joined the Galaxy's academy at 15 and played 48 games for the team's USL Championship affiliate before making his first-team debut in May in a U.S. Open Cup match. He also helped the U.S. qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics, anchoring a defense that gave up just two goals in seven games in winning the CONCACAF U-20 Championship last summer. That performance earned him a selection to the all-tournament team.

It also convinced coach Greg Vanney that Neal is ready to take on a much bigger role with the Galaxy this season.

"This is going to be the year that Jalen Neal needs to take a step forward and provide us with some depth and growth," he said. "Jalen is ready to start to step into the first-team environment."

Neal has been immersed in an athletic environment his whole life. Older brother Mark, 24, is a semipro soccer player, and his younger brother and sister play basketball and soccer.

"My two little ones, they have grown up on the soccer field, literally [since] coming home from the hospital," Sarah said.

They will be together at another soccer field Wednesday when the Neals travel to BMO Stadium. Whether Jalen plays or not won't dampen the excitement.

"Just seeing him in warm-ups is enough for me," Sarah said. "I'll be there crying."

There is one issue, though.

"We got tickets, but we didn't get parking," she said. "The game, I'm not even nervous about [it]. I'm more nervous about parking."

Soccer moms. They think of everything.

E-NEWSPAPER BONUS

Subscribers get free access to the daily digital replica of The Times print edition that includes a bonus sports page. Today's bonus page features an excerpt of soccer writer Kevin Baxter's newsletter. To view the e-newspaper, visit *latimes.com/enewspaper*.

Los Angeles Times

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

†

Roggin raising anchor on full career

BILL SHAIKIN
ON MEDIA

They were rookies together. Fernando Valenzuela and Fred Roggin each made his Los Angeles debut in September 1980.

Valenzuela threw his last pitch for the Dodgers 33 years ago. After a career of covering Valenzuela, Kobe Bryant, Wayne Gretzky, Al Davis and countless others for Channel 4, Roggin is hanging up his microphone. His last day as a sports anchor there is Thursday.

It's his choice, he says. He'll still appear on his AM 570 radio show. He'll explore opportunities in television production, whether hosting shows or inventing them for others. But, after more than 42 years as a local sports guy, he is ready to throw his last pitch from the anchor desk.

"I realized dreams I didn't know I had," said Roggin, 65. "I've been the luckiest and most blessed guy in the world."

No farewell to Roggin would be proper without an acknowledgment of the significant role he played in revitalizing the nightly local sportscast here and elsewhere.

Sports used to be a serious thing, narrated by serious-faced people.

Roggin was not one of them. A 1989 Times story on a new and lighter wave of sportscasters focused on Roggin and carried this headline: "Send in the Clowns."

As the Channel 4 sports guy, Roggin carried on the legacy of such distinguished alumni as Bryant Gumbel, Ross Porter and Stu Nahan. The station heavily promoted Roggin with his own

[See **Media,** B8]

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

FRED ROGGIN has been a staple in L.A. for more than 42 years.

CLIPPERS 133, LAKERS 115

Lakers pain before gain

Photographs by GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

LeBRON JAMES had his biggest game ever against Kawhi Leonard and the Clippers, scoring 46 points, but Russell Westbrook and the other Lakers couldn't come up with enough help for him.

New addition Hachimura is introduced and Davis may be back soon, but it's not soon enough for the team.

BY DAN WOIKE

Rob Pelinka sat with Rui Hachimura to his left before Tuesday's game, the Lakers' future the topic of conversation as the general manager introduced his newest acquisition.

Hachimura, the former lottery pick acquired in a trade this week, is set to debut Wednesday, when the team also could get star forward Anthony Davis back for the first time in more than a month.

Austin Reaves cleared an important hurdle earlier by having a full-speed workout, and fellow guard Lonnie Walker IV is considered to be even closer to returning.

Soon, the Lakers will be better.

But nights like Tuesday against the Clippers raise the obvious question: Is better going to be good enough?

Despite entering the night just one game behind the Clippers in the loss column, the Lakers showed that the differences between a team trying to figure it out and a team that's trying to figure out if it has enough were pretty obvious.

By the time coach Darvin Ham gave up on the game, LeBron James sat slumped in a chair on the bench. Russell Westbrook and Dennis Schroder argued. And the Lakers, soon to be beaten 133-115, were soundly defeated.

"We just don't have room for error," James said.

The Clippers drained three after three while physically and skillfully dominating the Lakers. In areas they were able to survive against the Memphis Grizzlies and

[See **Lakers,** B7]

Kennard might have shot at returning soon

Clippers could get their sharpshooter back as early as Thursday if calf injury continues to show progress.

BY ANDREW GREIF

Luke Kennard approached his locker inside Crypto.com Arena on Tuesday evening and, with the exasperated smile of a man tired of waiting, shook the black jersey dangling on a hanger.

It has been a while since the reserve guard donned a Clippers jersey. Eighteen days, and nine games, to be exact, since a calf injury he had first irritated Nov. 15 flared up again after a Jan. 6 game against Minnesota.

The wait could soon be over. Kennard and the team are leaving open the possibility that the 46% three-pointer shooter could return as soon as Thursday if his recovery continues to comply.

"I've been doing on-court stuff and playing live, so it's just making sure that it's gone 100%," Kennard said before the Clippers' 133-115 win over the Lakers. "I left the last road trip to come back and speed it up a little bit more. I'm ready. It's frustrating, it's annoying, so it's time to come back."

Kennard traveled with the team on its most recent three-game trip with the belief he could return but left the trip two games in after he was "still feeling it a little bit," he said, and because he wanted to get on the court more consistently. He

[See **Kennard,** B7]

CLIPPERS GUARD Luke Kennard hasn't played since Jan. 6 after aggravating his calf injury against the Timberwolves.

Shiffrin ascends to skiing's summit

HELENE ELLIOTT

Alpine skier Mikaela Shiffrin detests the label GOAT — greatest of all time — when it's mentioned during debates over athletes' accomplishments.

"It's mostly because the first image that pops up in my head is an actual goat. Like the screaming goat on Instagram," she said of a popular video that was remixed to the song "I Knew You Were Trouble" by Taylor Swift.

"Also, the terminology 'breaking records,' I don't like that either," Shiffrin said in an interview recorded by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard team. " 'Resetting records' is what I like. What other athletes have done before you is not something that can be broken."

After resetting the women's World Cup victory record Tuesday in Italy, Shiffrin will have to become accustomed to being called the GOAT. Because she is.

The 27-year-old Colorado native continued her stunning rebound from a baffling 0-for-5 individual performance at the Beijing Olympics and 0-for-6 total effort that she said left her feeling like "a joke." She earned her 83rd career

[See **Elliott,** B8]

ALESSANDRO TROVATI Associated Press

MIKAELA SHIFFRIN rejoices after she earned her 83rd World Cup win, a women's record on the circuit.

Zendejas is not yet a win for USMNT

DYLAN HERNÁNDEZ

In the wake of the Soccer Mom Scandal that continues to be a major source of embarrassment, this was a victory U.S. Soccer desperately needed.

Alejandro Zendejas was in camp with the men's national team this week in Los Angeles.

Zendejas, 24, is a star.

If he is not one of the best players in North America, he is certainly one of the most famous, a signature player on one of Mexico's signature teams, Club América.

A shifty left-footed attacker courted both by the country of his birth and the country in which he was raised, Zendejas had previously played two games for Mexico while technically still

[See **Hernández,** B9]

U.S. vs. Serbia

What: International friendly
When: Today, 7 p.m.
Where: BMO Stadium

The Galaxy's Jalen Neal might get his first USMNT cap, and his biggest fan and guiding force, his mom, will be in the stands. **B9**

Unseeded Linette advances again

Magda Linette defeats Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 7-5 to reach the Australian Open semifinals. **B8**

Kings win in overtime; Ducks prevail

Kevin Fiala scores in extra period to lift L.A. at Philadelphia, while Anaheim is a winner at Arizona. **B6**

Rolen elected to Baseball Hall of Fame

The slick-fielding third baseman is the only candidate to make this cut, getting 76% of the vote. **B6**

MARTIN MEISSNER Associated Press

GIO REYNA celebrated scoring a big goal for his Bundesliga team by calling for silence, presumably from critics of his behavior with the U.S. team.

SOCCER NEWSLETTER

U.S. Soccer should not reward pouters and malcontents

By Kevin Baxter

The U.S. men's soccer team has been engulfed in a soap opera over the last month, with a temper tantrum from one of the roster's youngest players and his parents pushing the federation to the point where some are now arguing the whims of a supremely talented if injury-prone player should come before what's best for the team and the federation.

The player is Gio Reyna, who on Sunday scored his first club goal since the World Cup, then celebrated with a predictably petulant performance by putting his finger to his lips as if to ask for quiet, then sticking both fingers in his ears to show he is not hearing all the noise around him.

Good for Reyna. The score was a *golazo*, a line drive volleyed into the top corner of the net to give Borussia Dortmund a 4-3 win over Augsburg. It was a great score.

But the noise he was trying not to hear was the echo of a cacophony he started two months ago, when he rejected coach Gregg Berhalter's plan to use him off the bench in Qatar. Reyna pouted through much of the rest of the tournament, refused to put in a full effort in training and caused such a distraction that Berhalter nearly sent him home.

U.S. Soccer has not recovered from the ugly aftermath. It will try to move on starting Wednesday, when it begins its drive to the 2026 World Cup with its first game of the new cycle against Serbia at BMO Stadium (formerly Banc of California Stadium). The fallout lingers with Anthony Hudson, Berhalter's assistant and the team's caretaker coach, fielding more questions about Berhalter than he did about the team in his first meeting with reporters Saturday.

"My conversations with all the players on the phone, and whoever I've spoken to, I think we all share the same sadness," he said. "This is a real shame, because so much good work was done."

But now that Reyna has scored a goal, everything is better, right? At 20, the future belongs to Reyna, not the 49-year-old Berhalter; never mind that Berhalter's record over the last four years is the best for a men's coach in U.S. Soccer history. Never mind that sources told ESPN's Sam Borden that U.S. men's team general manager Brian McBride is out after three years, another apparent casualty of *l'affaire* Reyna.

So let's go ahead and sack the coach and general manager and make a deity of the dissenter. Who needs those pesky other guys anyway?

That would be a disaster, akin to putting the inmates in charge of the asylum. Coaching a team — or any group of people — is about what's best for the collective, not any particular individual. Berhalter, with reason, believed Reyna was more useful coming off the bench. Reyna, who has been hampered by injuries, rarely has gone a full 90 minutes in a game in his national team career.

Same with his club. Reyna has made eight of his 11 Bundesliga appearances this season off the Dortmund bench, with his game-winning goal Sunday coming as a substitute. Reyna has proved to be a game-changing player off the bench, and that's where Berhalter wanted to play him in the heat and humidity of Qatar.

Did it work? No, with Reyna playing just 52 minutes, the U.S. scored three goals in four games and exited in the round of 16. But the conclusion that the strategy failed is unfair because Reyna never gave it a chance to work.

But at least Reyna, whom teammates have called both supremely talented and immature, apologized to them for wrecking their World Cup before he left Qatar last month. That could have been the end of it; instead it was just the beginning.

Reyna's father, Claudio, a U.S. captain in two World Cups and the best man at Berhalter's wedding, complained about the coach's approach in Qatar, dividing the team and creating the kind of toxic environment he would not have tolerated during his playing days. Yet it's something he also did when Reyna was playing on the U-17 national team.

Claudio's wife, Danielle, went that one better. Reacting to a talk Berhalter gave at a leadership conference in which he mentioned the distractions caused by a player he did not name — but who later was identified in the media as Gio — she told U.S. Soccer about a 1991 physical altercation between Berhalter and the woman, Rosalind Santana, who later became his wife.

The 31-year-old incident never was reported to authorities; Berhalter, then 18, said he sought counseling on his own and owned up to his mistakes, and he and Santana — Danielle Reyna's college roommate — married in 1999. Now, after the Reynas went public with a private matter, U.S. Soccer has hired an Atlanta law firm to probe Berhalter's past; his future with the national team remains uncertain.

But by all means let's fire the coach because Reyna scored a goal, proving he was right after all. What kind of a precedent would that set? If Christian Pulisic is unhappy with his playing time, would it be OK for him to pout? Is it OK for the best players to put themselves and their egos above what's best for the team? That's the undeniable message that rewarding the Reynas and sacking Berhalter sends.

I don't understand all the support for a player — the *only* player on the team, mind you — who wanted the World Cup to be about him. Berhalter had a similar discipline problem in World Cup qualifying and took care of that by suspending midfielder Weston McKennie. McKennie got the message and seems to have been a model teammate ever since. Publicly, at least, everyone on the U.S. team, from players through the coaches and medical staff, speaks highly of Berhalter.

After the team's World Cup-ending loss to the Netherlands in the round of 16, some players praised the culture Berhalter had built and seemed to suggest there were some players who refused to embrace it.

"We've built a foundation and a culture," defender DeAndre Yedlin said. "If guys don't fit into that culture, then you probably won't be with the group."

It's become clear over the last month who and what those players were talking about.

Neither Reyna nor McKennie was called into the eight-day January camp because there is no FIFA competition window this month. But five of their Qatar teammates are there, alongside 13 other players seeking their first international caps. It's fallen on them to get the focus back on soccer this week while Reyna celebrates blocking out the distractions he created.

"It's the start of something new, the new cycle," said defender Julian Gressel, who recently obtained U.S. citizenship and became eligible for the team. "It's exciting. What they've done in the past was tremendous. And now to be part of that, and to be able to represent that on the field, is something very special.

"Coming in as a player, you know what the standard is. And that's the very top. That's where the U.S. belongs, and that's what we're trying to get to. This is the start of it."

Mexico needs to get its house in order too

The U.S. national team is a hot mess. But it's still in better shape than its counterpart in Mexico, which is coming off its worst World Cup in 44 years, doesn't have a coach and last week was ordered to forfeit a pair of senior friendlies, forfeit three U-17 matches and pay a $10,900 fine for using U.S. forward Alejandro Zendejas, who is in camp with Hudson's team this week.

FIFA announced the penalties last week after Zendejas was named to the U.S. team for this week's friendlies with Serbia on Wednesday at BMO Stadium and Saturday with Colombia at Dignity Health Sports Park.

Zendejas was born in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, just across the border, but moved to El Paso as a child and became a dual national. He played three matches for the U.S. at the U-17 World Cup, which counts as an official competition. To be eligible to play for Mexico, he would have had to request a one-time switch in affiliation.

Zendejas began his pro career in MLS as a homegrown player with FC Dallas before moving on to Liga MX, where he played with Guadalajara, Zacatepec, Nexcaxa and Club América.

In the search for a coach, Mexican journalist David Faitelson reported last week that former Leeds United manager Marcelo Bielsa, an Argentine who coached Chile and Argentina in the World Cup, tops the list of candidates. Tata Martino, Mexico's coach in Qatar, also is from Argentina, while his predecessor, Juan Carlos Osorio, is Colombian.

Many supporters want the team to return to a Mexican manager such as Miguel Herrera, who coached the team into the round of 16 in the 2014 World Cup.

Faitelson said Herrera also is on the federation's list of coaching possibilities.

GREG BEACHAM Associated Press

ANTHONY HUDSON, the caretaker coach for the U.S. men's national team, will lead the team in two matches this week in L.A., against Serbia and Colombia.

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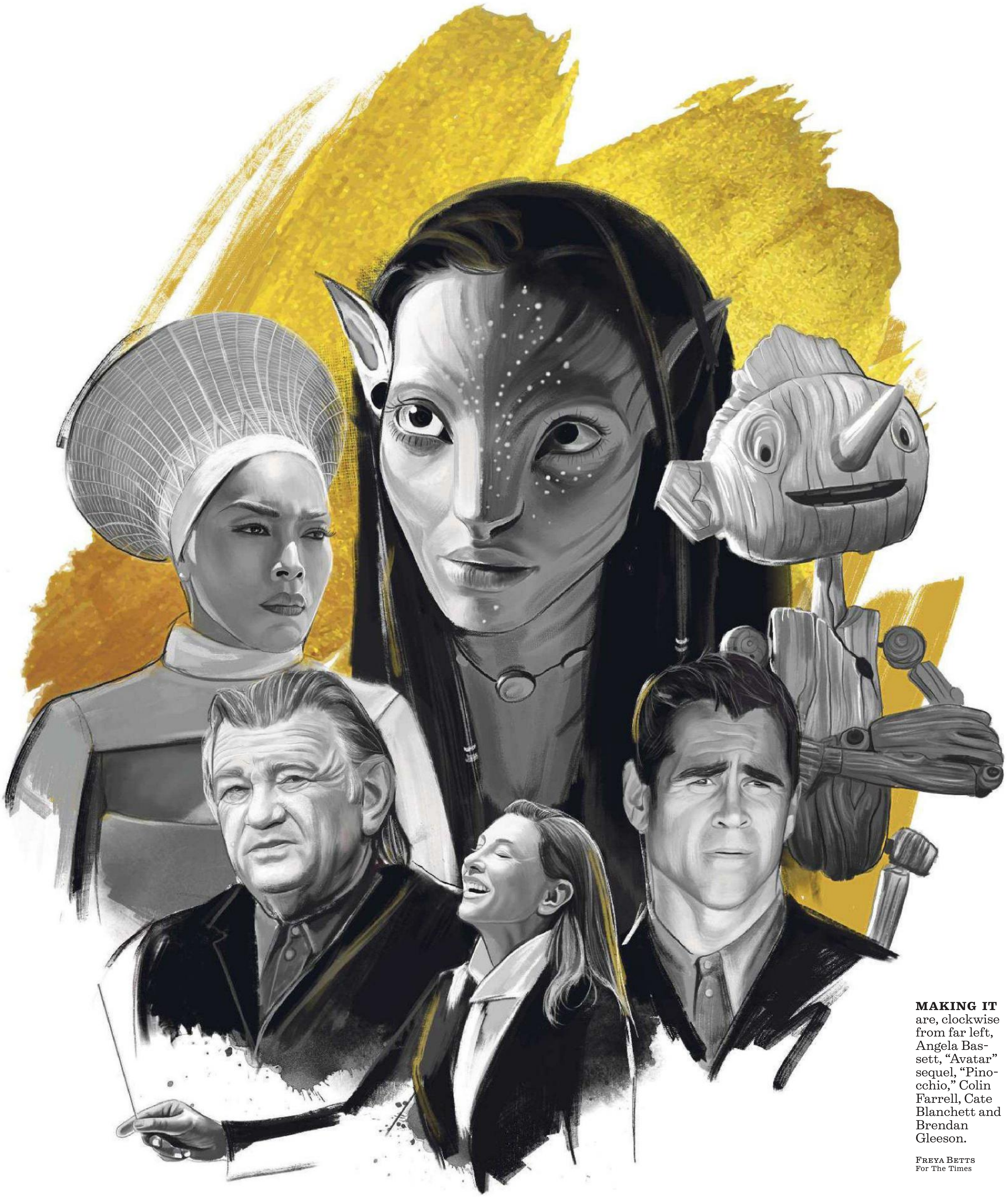


MAKING IT are, clockwise from far left, Angela Bassett, "Avatar" sequel, "Pinocchio," Colin Farrell, Cate Blanchett and Brendan Gleeson.

Freya Betts
For The Times

OSCAR NOMINATIONS

STRANGE REALITY

Plenty of surprises (Ana de Armas, Andrea Riseborough) and snubs (Viola Davis, Danielle Deadwyler) in nods

GLENN WHIPP

OSCAR NOMINATIONS arrived Tuesday, and the sounds you are hearing around town right now range from the chosen few buzzing the tower in celebration to the dull thud of disappointments being flung against a wooden door à la "The Banshees of Inisherin," though, hopefully, without the need for bandages or infantile acts of revenge.

Of course, in an Oscar multiverse, *everyone's* a nominee and nobody came away from the nominations announcement feeling like they were on the receiving end of a "Babylon" elephant's bowel distress. In this reality though, the morning brought its fair share of surprises, pleasant and otherwise. There were also omissions, which, for the sake of alliteration and search engine optimization, we'll call "snubs," though voters probably didn't intend any ill will, unless you were the filmmaker who wrote and directed that elephant scene, in which case, it was *entirely* personal.

[See **Snubs,** E8]

MORE INSIDE

THE ROAD TO 'ELVIS'

Austin Butler thanks his former partner for nudging him toward the role. **E2**

ALL 23 CATEGORIES

Check out the nominees, from best picture to visual effects. **E2**

MULTIVERSE HEROES

"Everything Everywhere's" Asian actors make history, leading film to 11 nods. **E3**

In a departure from recent years, academy voters recognize fewer films distributed by streaming services

By Anousha Sakoui

THE STREAMING business had a weaker turnout in Tuesday's Oscar nominations than it has in recent years, when the pandemic kept movie fans at home and technology companies were outspending traditional studios for the buzziest titles.

But Netflix's awards season got a major boost with a late surge from an unlikely contender — the little-known, brutal German World War I epic "All Quiet on the Western Front," which was the only streaming title to get a best picture nomination for the 95th Academy Awards.

"All Quiet on the Western Front" had nine nominations, including for adapted screenplay and in multiple technical categories, tying for second place with Searchlight Pictures' "The Banshees of Inisherin" and coming in behind A24's "Everything Everywhere All at Once," which received 11.

"Making a film is alchemy, and if

[See **Netflix,** E4]

PERFORMING as Elvis earned Butler a lead actor Oscar nomination.

FREYA BETTS For The Times

On a 'roller coaster' with Austin Butler

The first-time nominee opens up about mourning Lisa Marie Presley and what drew him to her father.

BY MARK OLSEN

AUSTIN BUTLER received his first Academy Award nomination for his performance as Elvis Presley in Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis."

In the film, the 31-year-old Butler plays the musical icon from a pre-fame teenager to his death at age 42. The film explores Presley's relationship with his longtime manager, Colonel Tom Parker, played by Tom Hanks, and has gone on to be a box office sensation, earning more than $287 million worldwide.

Also nominated for lead actor were Brendan Fraser for "The Whale," Colin Farrell for "The Banshees of Inisherin," Paul Mescal for "Aftersun" and Bill Nighy for "Living," all first-time nominees. Besides Butler's nomination, "Elvis" earned seven other nods, including for best picture.

Butler was born in Anaheim and began acting as a teenager, landing roles in TV shows "Hannah Montana," "iCarly" and "Zoey 101." Butler made his Broadway debut in 2018 in a production of "The Iceman Cometh" starring Denzel Washington. He appeared in Quentin Tarantino's 2019 "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood" as Manson family member Charles "Tex" Watson, and will also soon be seen in the upcoming "Dune: Part Two."

For his portrayal of Elvis Presley, Butler has also won numerous other awards, including a Golden Globe, and is currently a BAFTA nominee.

Where are you? How did you find out about the nomination this morning?

Austin Butler: I'm at home [in Los Angeles]. I woke up to missed calls from my publicist and agents, and so it was their voices that I heard first this morning telling me the news.

Have you spoken or been in touch with Baz at all?

Butler: No. I was just actually saying that because I woke up late and my publicist threw me immediately on "Good Morning America," I basically woke up on the air and have been working my way through the interviews. I think this is my last interview before I get to call Baz.

I can only imagine how bittersweet this must be because of the passing of Lisa Marie Presley. From just a few weekends when you were with her at the Golden Globes to now, what has that been like for you?

Butler: Man, it's just devastating. The highs have been so high and then the lows so low. It's really such a roller coaster of a time. And there's certain moments where it feels really strange to celebrate and a moment like this right now is one of those things that as a young actor, I always saw off in the distance as this thing that almost seemed unattainable. And so to suddenly hear my name listed amongst these other amazing actors as recognized by the academy, it's so surreal to me. And then I'm also filled with this really intense sorrow because I just wish Lisa Marie was here to celebrate it with us.

What was it like for you to be at her memorial in Memphis just a few days ago?

Butler: It's all just such a shock. It's such an absolutely heart-shattering thing that is hard to believe is real. The one thing that I was so moved by was to see so many people come together with this unified love for her and to hear all the stories, different people's memories, and to get to share mine and to also be there to support Priscilla and Riley and Harper and Finley in this absolutely devastating time. It's hard to put into words, it really is.

When the movie was opening, we at the L.A. Times published a story that asked the question: Does Elvis still matter? And I think the success of the movie in part has answered that question, but I wonder for you, what is it about Elvis that still matters, what does his story have to say to us today?

Butler: I think there's so many different angles we can talk about with that. One key thing that I see, especially for the young people who weren't very familiar with Elvis, is that rebel Elvis, the one that was wearing eyeliner and lace shirts in the '50s and was just so true to what he found inspiring. Even if that meant that he was going to get made fun of by people or whatever. It's this deep ability to just follow what his heart was telling him he wanted to do. And I think that for all those people out there who are being inspired by him, by how true he was to himself, I think that's been really cool to see in young people.

I have a lot of people come up to me and say, "I saw myself in him." And whether it's artists who are seeing that or people who have other people in the world trying to tell them not to live in a certain way, it's about pushing through that and being true to what your own vision is. I mean, I could talk to you for days about this.

One thing that's so impressive about your performance is the simple fact that you play Elvis across three decades. Did you approach each time period and the man he was at that moment almost like a different role? How did you handle just the scope of the performance?

Butler: Initially Baz and I had talked about shooting the film chronologically. This is back six months before we even went to Australia. And then very quickly that kind of all went out the window and we realized, because of schedules and everything else, we're not going to be able to shoot it chronologically. So I knew that I'd have to be jumping from 1956 one day to 1972 the next and then back to the '60s. And that sort of jumping back and forth, I knew that was going to be a challenge because when you listened to Elvis' voice over the years, you realize it changed a lot from 1954 to 1977.

So I basically started breaking it down into periods of his life and, I've talked about this before, but when this film shut down and I stayed in Australia during that time when we had six months during the pandemic where the film shut down, I basically turned my whole apartment into what looked like a detective crime scene or something. Just images of Elvis that were all chronological throughout his life. And so I could be in the living room and see every year from the beginning all the way through to his passing and it was also filled with how he changed spiritually over that time and mentally and what his fears were at that point in his life. And so every day that we would film it was a matter of grounding myself in whatever time period that was. And knowing where he'd just come from and where he was just going. And just sort of seeing it through his eyes at that particular point in his life. It's tricky because it's not just one voice. And as well as the singing voice changes over that time and the way that he moved physically over that time. Now I'm getting nervous just talking about, just remembering how terrifying that was.

The movie ends with you performing "Unchained Melody" and then it hands itself over to Elvis' famous rendition of that song shortly before he died. What does it mean to you that the movie ends with the real Elvis?

Butler: I was an emotional wreck the first time I saw it, because of how much I love Elvis and how tender I know his heart was and how sensitive of a guy he was and what great humor he had and the fact that he was so young at that point.

I mean, he's only 42 and yet his body has really gone through it by that point, but to see that little smile that he had in "Unchained Melody" where he looks out at the audience [is] beautiful and heartbreaking. So that's what I've always felt watching that.

And then to have lived that and had that moment and I didn't know Baz was going to cut to the footage that I'd watched a million times and suddenly when it cut to that, it really broke my heart.

After you won at the Golden Globes, there was so much attention to your voice and your accent. How do you feel about that?

Butler: It's funny to me because I don't even think about it. I guess after three years of doing everything that I could to focus on this one goal of trying to bring life to Elvis in this film, I think that there's certain muscular habits that must pop up.

If I was trying to sound like Elvis, I would sound very different right now. I think it's sort of amusing to me how much people want to focus on this one thing.

But I've had friends who've gone and lived in other countries and they come back and they have a French accent or an Italian accent or something like that, or where they've gone and lived in the South for a while and they've come back.

It's funny how we have these muscular habits that will pop up in ways that we don't expect.

So especially at the Globes, the first time I'm ever accepting a major award, and if bits of the accent popped up, I mean, what timing.

And then there's something else I hope you can clear up. You've talked about a moment even before you had the role, it was Christmas time, and an Elvis song came on and you were with a friend and you were singing along. And your friend —

Butler: I was with my partner at the time.

Said you should play Elvis. And people have been saying you must have been with Vanessa Hudgens. So that's right?

Butler: That's right. We'd been together for so long and she had this sort of clairvoyant moment and so I really, I owe her a lot for believing in me.

So many people have played Elvis before you, and now there's going to be a new Sofia Coppola film about Priscilla Presley where Jacob Elordi is playing Elvis. Do you know him? Have you spoken to him about it?

Butler: No, I haven't. I've met him before, but we haven't spoken about that at all.

Would you have any advice for someone about to play Elvis?

Butler: There's no quick answer for that. Other than I wish him all the best.

If you're gonna put on an Elvis song today, which one do you think you'd put on?

Butler: You know what first pops into my mind is "I Got A Feeling in My Body." That's one of his joyous songs, "I got a feeling in my body." It's such an upbeat song and that just feels right for right now.

2023 OSCAR NODS

BEST PICTURE
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Avatar: The Way of Water"
"The Banshees of Inisherin"
"Elvis"
"Everything Everywhere All at Once"
"The Fabelmans"
"Tár"
"Top Gun: Maverick"
"Triangle of Sadness"
"Women Talking"

ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE
Austin Butler ("Elvis")
Colin Farrell ("The Banshees of Inisherin")
Brendan Fraser ("The Whale")
Paul Mescal ("Aftersun")
Bill Nighy ("Living")

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE
Cate Blanchett ("Tár")
Ana de Armas ("Blonde")
Andrea Riseborough ("To Leslie")
Michelle Williams ("The Fabelmans")
Michelle Yeoh ("Everything Everywhere All at Once")

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE
Brendan Gleeson ("The Banshees of Inisherin")
Brian Tyree Henry ("Causeway")
Judd Hirsch ("The Fabelmans")
Barry Keoghan ("The Banshees of Inisherin")
Ke Huy Quan ("Everything Everywhere All at Once")

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE
Angela Bassett ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever")
Hong Chau ("The Whale")
Kerry Condon ("The Banshees of Inisherin")
Jamie Lee Curtis ("Everything Everywhere All at Once")
Stephanie Hsu ("Everything Everywhere All at Once")

ANIMATED FEATURE FILM
"Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio"
"Marcel the Shell With Shoes On"
"Puss in Boots: The Last Wish"
"The Sea Beast"
"Turning Red"

ANIMATED SHORT FILM
"The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse"
"The Flying Sailor"
"Ice Merchants"
"My Year of Dicks"
"An Ostrich Told Me the World Is Fake and I Think I Believe It"

CINEMATOGRAPHY
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths"
"Elvis"
"Empire of Light"
"Tár"

COSTUME DESIGN
"Babylon"
"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
"Elvis"
"Everything Everywhere All at Once"
"Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris"

DIRECTING
Todd Field ("Tár")
Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert ("Everything Everywhere All at Once")
Martin McDonagh ("The Banshees of Inisherin")
Ruben Östlund ("Triangle of Sadness")
Steven Spielberg ("The Fabelmans")

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
"All That Breathes"
"All the Beauty and the Bloodshed"
"Fire of Love"
"A House Made of Splinters"
"Navalny"

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM
"The Elephant Whisperers"
"Haulout"
"How Do You Measure a Year?"
"The Martha Mitchell Effect"
"Stranger at the Gate"

FILM EDITING
"The Banshees of Inisherin"
"Elvis"
"Everything Everywhere All at Once"
"Tár"
"Top Gun: Maverick"

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE
Germany, "All Quiet on the Western Front"
Argentina, "Argentina, 1985"
Belgium, "Close"
Poland, "EO"
Ireland, "The Quiet Girl"

LIVE-ACTION SHORT FILM
"An Irish Goodbye"
"Ivalu"
"Le Pupille"
"Night Ride"
"The Red Suitcase"

MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"The Batman"
"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
"Elvis"
"The Whale"

MUSIC (ORIGINAL SONG)
"Applause" from "Tell It Like a Woman"
"Hold My Hand" from "Top Gun: Maverick"
"Lift Me Up" from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
"Naatu Naatu" from "RRR"
"This Is a Life" from "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

MUSIC (ORIGINAL SCORE)
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Babylon"
"The Banshees of Inisherin"
"Everything Everywhere All at Once"
"The Fabelmans"

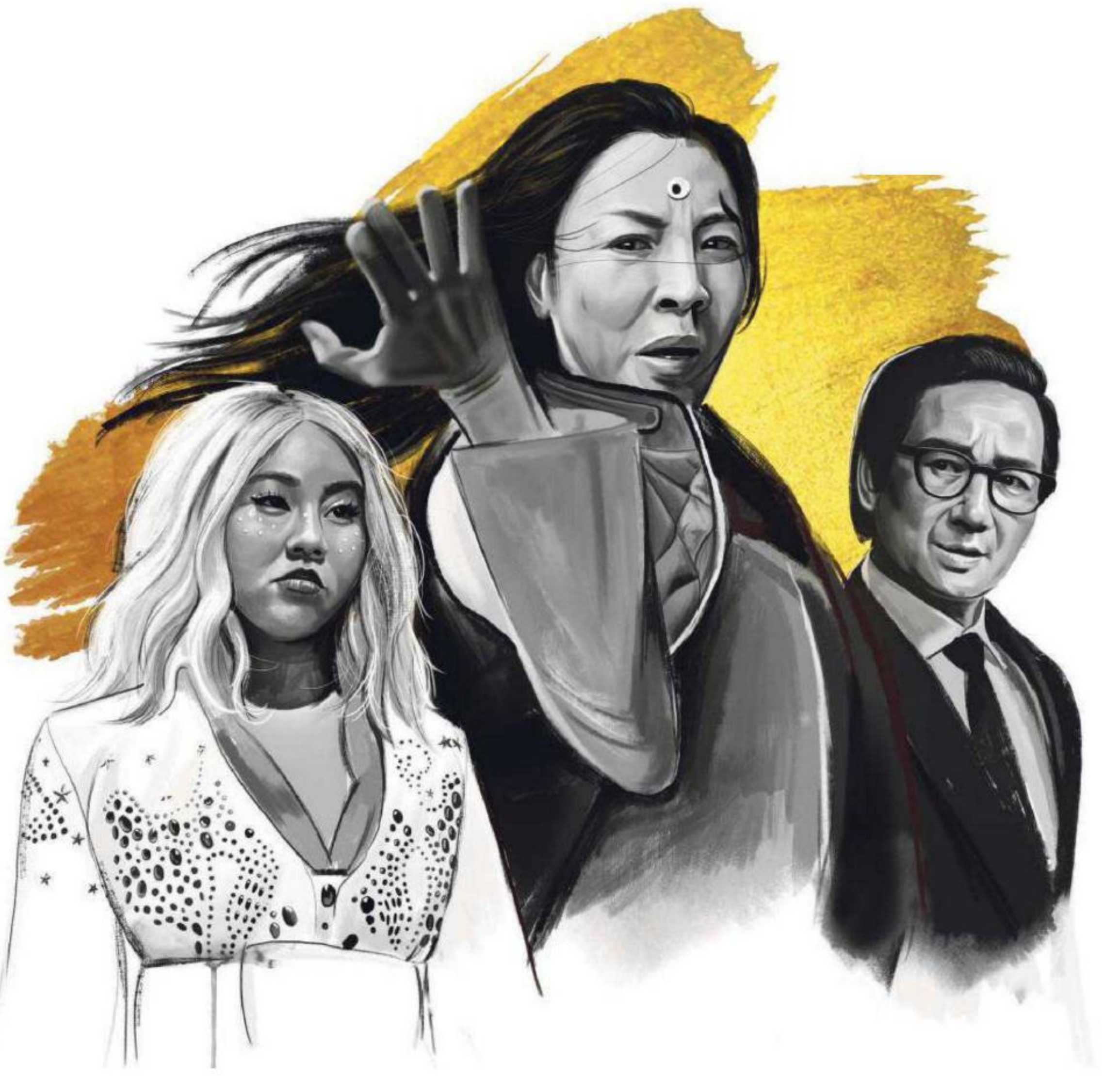
PRODUCTION DESIGN
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Avatar: The Way of Water"
"Babylon"
"Elvis"
"The Fabelmans"

SOUND
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Avatar: The Way of Water"
"The Batman"
"Elvis"
"Top Gun: Maverick"

WRITING (ADAPTED SCREENPLAY)
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery"
"Living"
"Top Gun: Maverick"
"Women Talking"

WRITING (ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY)
"The Banshees of Inisherin"
"Everything Everywhere All at Once"
"The Fabelmans"
"Tár"
"Triangle of Sadness"

VISUAL EFFECTS
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Avatar: The Way of Water"
"The Batman"
"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
"Top Gun: Maverick"



NOMINEES Stephanie Hsu, left, Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan from "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

FREYA BETTS For The Times

Love and compassion are 'Everything,' stars say

Cast and crew rejoice as movie gets 11 nominations, including three for actors of Asian descent

By Jen Yamato

GENRE-blending action hit "Everything Everywhere All at Once" scored a leading 11 Oscar nominations — best picture, director, original screenplay, editing, costume, score, song, supporting actor for Ke Huy Quan, supporting actress for both Jamie Lee Curtis and Stephanie Hsu, and lead actress for Michelle Yeoh — in a record-breaking year for acting nominees of Asian descent.

Joining castmates and crew over Zoom from London on Tuesday morning, Yeoh found herself feeling — yes — everything, everywhere, all at once. After a nearly 40-year career overseas and several attempts to break into Hollywood, the Malaysian-born actor ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Crazy Rich Asians") felt her iron nerves rattling.

"It was scary and terrifying!" Yeoh said with a laugh by phone following her career-first Academy Award nod. "Jonathan Wang, our producer, was like, 'We're all winners, we came this far.' I was like, 'F off!' If I don't get nominated, I'm not walking out the door for the next year because so many people have said, 'You'd better get this for us! You're going to do this!' "

Ahead of the 95th Academy Awards, A24's multiverse-hopping critical darling earned more nominations than any other film. Yeoh could become the first Asian lead actress winner in academy history. With "The Whale's" Hong Chau, 2023 marks the highest number of acting nominations for Asian talent since 2004, when there were three.

Netflix's war epic "All Quiet on the Western Front" and Searchlight Pictures' dark comedy "The Banshees of Inisherin" tied for the second-most number of nods with nine apiece.

"Everything Everywhere's" nomination domination told Yeoh that the film, about a Chinese American immigrant who learns that only she can save the multiverse, resonated with audiences. "And that is what was most important to us, because it is a movie about family, love and compassion." She hopes that the healing of rifts between Evelyn, daughter Joy (Hsu) and husband Waymond (Quan) at the heart of the film is a balm to anyone who needs it in times of "tragedy and turmoil."

"This is an ordinary woman that you would walk past without giving her a second glance, but somehow she's able to save the universe," said Yeoh. Oscar kudos, she added, are "the cherry on the cake." "It's like at the end of a play when the curtains go up and you take your bow. This is where everybody comes and pats you on the back and goes, 'Bravo.' So thank you for the bravo. I'm taking the roses!"

Hsu was flying back to Los Angeles from Sydney, Australia, where she's been filming a movie, when she started getting messages about her Oscar nomination. She celebrated the moment in her seat, where she rewatched the film to reflect on the experience of making it. "At the opening scene where the family is singing in the mirror, I was already hysterically crying," she said with a laugh.

"This movie is the most honest handshake I could make with Hollywood," Hsu said, citing her mentor, the late theater writer and director Elizabeth Swados. "To be an artist is a huge responsibility because you have the power to be in communication with a mass amount of people. So make art that is surprising. Make art that leads us to heal each other and ourselves, and hopefully guide us towards a better humanity."

"I feel so proud of our movie because it has provided that for so many people," she said. "It's my wildest dream of what I ever hope any project can do."

How will she celebrate? "I really want breakfast first, and then I want to go on a long walk. I want to take a second to let it all sink in and bask in gratitude."

At home in Los Angeles, Quan set an alarm to make sure he didn't miss the squad video chat — then screamed, jumped for joy and got emotional as the nominations rolled in, including his own for supporting actor. After quitting acting for decades after starring in "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" and "Goonies" as a child, his return to acting — and Tuesday's milestone — felt surreal and emotional.

"For years I watched the Oscars and imagined what it was like to be on the red carpet, to be in that room, to be nominated — and when I had to step away from acting, that dream dissipated. It went further and further away, and I didn't think it would ever come back," he said. "I'm so grateful to the academy for this incredible honor."

Hearing his name called during the announcement was especially meaningful because as a young actor he was urged to change it to get more work.

"My birth name is Ke Huy Quan, and when I was not getting any jobs, there weren't any roles for me, my manager at the time said, 'Maybe if you changed your name to an American-sounding name, more opportunities will come.' So I did exactly that. And still there was nothing," said Quan. Giving acting another shot a few years ago, the first thing he did was change his name back.

"Because that's my family name — it comes with this heritage," he said. "To hear 'Ke Huy Quan' mentioned along with those amazing actors is so special to me, because it's a name that I love. It's not somebody else suggesting it just so I can get more work. It feels amazing, and I hope my story inspires other people to continue to dream and to never give up, and one day it will happen to them."

Directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert a.k.a. Daniels each nabbed three Oscar nominations, for original screenplay, director and best picture as producers alongside Jonathan Wang. Costume designer Shirley Kurata, composer Son Lux and editor Paul Rogers also earned noms, as did songwriters Ryan Lott, David Byrne and Mitski for song nominee "This Is a Life."

The film followed an unlikely path to awards glory. Debuting last March after making its world premiere at the SXSW Film Festival — not typically a launching pad for major awards players — it is the rare Oscar front-runner to premiere early in the calendar year. The film also stars James Hong, Harry Shum Jr. and Jenny Slate.

The 2023 Oscars will be held March 12 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

John Williams scores his 53rd at age 90

By Ashley Lee

DECORATED composer John Williams made Academy Awards history yet again Tuesday when he received a nomination for the score of Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans."

At 90 years old, Williams is now the oldest person to be nominated for a competitive Oscar, a record previously held by three people who were nominated at 89 years old: "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" costume designer Ann Roth, "Call Me by Your Name" screenwriter James Ivory and "Faces Places" director Agnès Varda.

If Williams wins, he will become the oldest winner in any Oscar category. Ivory, who won the adapted screenplay Oscar for "Call Me by Your Name" in 2018, currently holds that record at 89; Williams will have turned 91 by March 12, the date of this year's ceremony.

Williams, receiving his 53rd Oscar nomination on Tuesday, bested himself as the living person with the most Oscar nominations. He is also the second-most-nominated person in Oscars history — after Walt Disney, with 59 nods — and the only person to be nominated for an Oscar in seven different decades.

Plus, he's still the person with the most Oscar nominations in the scoring category, as "The Fabelmans" marks his 48th. His film scores have previously won the Oscar five times: "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971), "Jaws" (1975), "Star Wars" (1977), "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" (1982) and "Schindler's List" (1993).

Also nominated in the scoring category were "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Babylon," "The Banshees of Inisherin" and "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

"The Fabelmans," Spielberg's semiautobiographical story about becoming a filmmaker at a young age, was nominated for seven awards, including best picture.

Williams and Spielberg, who met over a blind lunch date in 1972, have worked together on projects for more than 50 years. They told The Times in 2012 that they have a shorthand and a shared aural aesthetic for their collaborations.

"We discuss where to put the music and what its function will be in the scenes. I'll play Steven a few little half-developed themes on the piano," Williams explained. "He's never said to me, 'I don't like that' or 'That's not good.' He offers just by his body language and his eyes and his face a sense of encouragement in this direction or that direction."

"Johnny and I have been very Luddite about including full orchestras and full choirs in most of our films," added Spielberg. "I love orchestras. I never leave the scoring sessions. It's my vacation from the movie I just made."

Bassett makes Marvel history as a finalist for supporting actress

By Tracy Brown

QUEEN Ramonda forever.

"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever's" Angela Bassett broke new ground for the Marvel Cinematic Universe when the 2023 Oscar nominations were announced Tuesday morning. Bassett, who portrays the grieving queen mother in Marvel Studios' "Black Panther" sequel, has been nominated for a supporting actress Oscar. She is the first actor to be recognized by the academy for a performance in an MCU project.

Bassett was nominated alongside Hong Chau ("The Whale"), Kerry Condon ("The Banshees of Inisherin"), Jamie Lee Curtis ("Everything Everywhere All at Once") and Stephanie Hsu ("Everything Everywhere All at Once").

Bassett has already picked up a number of accolades for her portrayal of Queen Ramonda this awards season. Among the higher-profile accolades are winning the Golden Globe and Critics Choice awards for supporting actress. She has also been nominated for a SAG Award.

This is Bassett's second Oscar nomination following her 1994 lead actress nomination for portraying Tina Turner in "What's Love Got to Do With It." Bassett joins Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer and Whoopi Goldberg as one of the few Black women who have received multiple acting Oscar nods.

Director Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther" set the bar for Marvel Studios in 2019 when it became the first MCU film to earn an Oscar nomination for best picture. The 2018 film, starring the late Chadwick Boseman as King T'Challa, was nominated in seven total Oscar categories, and won for costume design, production design and original score. These are the only Academy Awards ever won by any Marvel Studios film.

While it has been rare for a comic book superhero film to be recognized in any of the top Oscar categories, let alone win, there is precedent. Joaquin Phoenix won the Academy Award for lead actor in 2020 for his performance as Arthur Fleck in "Joker." In 2009, Phoenix's Joker predecessor Heath Ledger won a posthumous supporting actor Oscar for his portrayal of the villain in "The Dark Knight."

Marvel Studios

RAMONDA (Angela Bassett) in the "Black Panther" sequel.

Fewer streaming films recognized

REINER BAJO

NETFLIX'S "All Quiet on the Western Front" (which stars Felix Kammerer) is up for best picture.

[**Netflix,** from E1]

the right people and circumstances come together, if you are lucky enough, then somehow, miraculously, audiences connect to the experience," said director Edward Berger in a statement.

Still, by nabbing just one of 10 available spots, streaming services had their poorest showing in the Oscars' top category since Netflix fielded its first best picture nominee, Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma," in 2019.

The relative lack of recognition is another blow for digital platforms following a year of retrenchment by big streaming companies as they rethink their spending habits in the face of increased competition and Wall Street's demands for profitability. The story for streaming services has lately been cost control, rather than glamorous awards campaigning.

Moreover, three years after the COVID-19 pandemic struck, going out is in again, and a handful of critically acclaimed theatrical blockbusters — "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Avatar: The Way of Water" — gave voters a chance to recognize popular studio fare.

"Last year has a big asterisk on it because a lot of movies had to go to streaming since theaters were either closed or just trying to reopen during COVID," said Shawn Robbins, chief analyst at Boxoffice Pro. "This past year, that's really reversed, and it looks like the vast majority of the best picture nominees will have been theatrical-first releases, and that's a huge statement for the industry."

Netflix earned 16 nominations Tuesday overall, ranking third among all companies behind Walt Disney Co. and indie darling A24, a big change from 2022 when the streamer had the most nominations for the third year in a row. Ana de Armas garnered a nomination for lead actress for her role as Marilyn Monroe in "Blonde," and Guillermo del Toro's "Pinocchio" is a favorite for the animated feature prize. Other Netflix nominees included "The Sea Beast" (animated feature), Rian Johnson's "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" (adapted screenplay) and Alejandro G. Iñárritu's "Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths" (cinematography).

Netflix came to last year's ceremony with 27 nods for films including Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog," Adam McKay's "Don't Look Up" and Maggie Gyllenhaal's "The Lost Daughter." Netflix had 35 nominations in 2021 and 24 in 2020.

Among other streamers, Apple scored a total of two nominations, including one for supporting actor for Brian Tyree Henry in "Causeway" and an animated short film, compared with the six it had in 2022. Amazon, after fielding past best picture nominees including "Manchester by the Sea" and "Sound of Metal," had just one nomination this year, with Argentina's "Argentina, 1985," up for international feature. Last year it had four, for "Being the Ricardos" and "Coming 2 America."

The streaming slump wasn't for lack of trying.

Besides "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Blonde," "Bardo" and "Glass Onion," Netflix backed Noah Baumbach's adaptation of "White Noise." Only "All Quiet on the Western Front" prevailed in securing a best picture nod.

Apple's buzziest title this year, "Emancipation," a slavery drama starring Will Smith, was dealt a physical and metaphorical blow when Smith slapped comedian Chris Rock at last year's Oscars ceremony. The controversy overshadowed the Cupertino, Calif.-based company's $120-million release, which sputtered in the race after a mixed critical reception.

With streaming services on their heels, traditional studios and specialty distributors dominated the main categories.

Walt Disney, including its Searchlight label, led the distributors with 22 nominations, with nine nominations for "The Banshees of Inisherin." Disney also had multiple nods for James Cameron's "Avatar: The Way of Water" (which scored a best picture slot) and "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" (including Angela Bassett for supporting actress). Disney's Pixar had an animated feature nominee in "Turning Red."

A24 earned 18 nominations, a record for the New York-based distributor and the most of any stand-alone distributor, helped by 11 nods for "Everything Everywhere All at Once" and several for "The Whale" (with Brendan Fraser for lead actor).

Universal, with its Focus Features and Amblin Partners titles, scored 15 nods in total, thanks in part to Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans," which had seven nominations. Focus' "Tár" got six. Right behind the Comcast-owned studio was Warner Bros. Discovery, which had 14 nominations total, including eight for "Elvis," three for "The Batman" and additional nods for documentaries that aired on HBO Max.

Paramount Pictures came away with nine nominations, split between "Top Gun: Maverick" (six) and "Babylon" (three).

Independent distributor Neon snagged six, including three for its best picture nominee "Triangle of Sadness."

Streaming services spent years chasing Oscar glory — and the industry credibility that winning one of the academy's golden statuettes bestows on a studio. Flashy awards campaigns help companies attract big-name filmmakers. Awards also can boost viewership, whether at the box office or online.

To be sure, this year could be an anomaly, as the shift of viewing toward streaming platforms isn't ending anytime soon.

Apple likely will be in the awards conversation once it releases Martin Scorsese's adaptation of "Killers of the Flower Moon," which is said to have a budget of some $200 million. Netflix appears to be arming up for future competitions, buying the critically acclaimed "Fair Play" at the Sundance Film Festival for a reported $20 million.

"Streaming is going to get their share," said Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives.

'The 95th Oscars'

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Where: ABC

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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Kevin, a mixologist at DTLA's Death & Co, creates a Shochu Highball called the "Wolf Song." *Photo courtesy of JFOODO*

A SEASON FOR SHOCHU

IT'S A NEW YEAR – WHY NOT SAMPLE A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SPIRIT?

In a cosmopolitan region like Southern California, variety is never lacking. There are almost endless things to do, see, eat and drink, to the point where even longtime residents admit there are experiences they've yet to try. Happily adding to that mix is international flair: Los Angeles, a melting pot of thousands of cultures, is well poised to bring worldwide delight to its residents, especially with food and drink.

Now, Japan, already well established as one of the culinary capitals of the world, is offering its generosity again in the form of a unique type of spirit: shochu. While novices to the drink may want to compare the alcoholic beverage with more-familiar sake, shochu is less one type of drink as a classification of spirits with a medium amount of alcoholic content – and beyond that textbook definition, the fun begins.

Shochu offers both unique flavors and inviting aromas, so it can be difficult to compare it to other liquors. In fact, it often depends on the ingredients. While classified as one spirit, the ingredients of shochu vary widely. Varieties are distilled from different source materials such as rice, barley, sweet potatoes and even brown sugar, offering a wide range of tastes and aromas – similar to sampling fine wines, you use multiple senses to enjoy the experience.

Shochu derived from rice has a light, high fragrance like that of ginjo sake, featuring aromatic hints of green apple, citrus and melon. Rice shochu produced using atmospheric distillation (a process using vacuum that lowers the spirit's boiling point) retains the powerful aroma and savory flavor of rice.

Sweet potato shochu features fruity aromas reminiscent of lychee and mango coupled with floral notes of lavender and roses. This variety of shochu becomes richer as it ages.

Barley-based shochu offers a richness and flavor that rivals a young barrel-aged whiskey or rum. As it matures, the boldness of the nose settles down and its flavor develops, becoming fuller and more intense.

The spirit's variety is only one reason there is a boom of shochu in Japan and worldwide. Shochu can be enjoyed in a myriad of different ways, from simple sipping, adding hot water, poured over ice with club soda and a twist, or as the star ingredient in inventive cocktails. And, because shochu is a spirit rich with the flavors of its ingredients; the taste of the base ingredient always comes through.

For intrigued drinkers, the next question is very often "where can i try shochu?" Many Japanese restaurants, grocers and drinking establishments in Southern California do stock varieties of the drink, but the best way to have an experience is to try several varieties of the beverage in a very popular way – the Shochu Highball.

The Shochu Highball is, as the name suggests, the spirit mixed with carbonated water, and offers a way to more directly experience the spirit's aroma and taste. The effervescence amplifies the flavors of the shochu, creating a fresh, light and refreshing cocktail.

Even better for Angelenos, 10 local bars (Bar Bohémien, Big Bar, Death & Co, Jonah's Kitchen + Bar, Kodō, The Normandie Club, Thunderbolt, Redbird, Wolf & Crane, and 1212 Santa Monica) are giving patrons a chance to try the Shochu Highball, as well as several craft shochu cocktails created by talented mixologists. Each drink has been made to highlight the unique flavors of the shochu varieties while offering the elevated experience that those familiar with L.A.'s cocktail culture are used to.

Best of all since several bars in the region are participating, the opportunity to make an evening out of this new experience is tantalizing – you can even do a little "bar hopping" to enjoy several wonderful shochu creations.

For those who want even more exposure to shochu, JFOODO is offering a tasting event on Jan. 26 at Downtown Los Angeles' Death & Co., an intimate cocktail bar.* Participants can enjoy a Shochu Highball, a signature cocktail created by Death & Co. bartenders, and other shochu cocktails for the special price of $20 per person (*RSVP required*). It's an excellent opportunity to learn about shochu, sample its rich aroma and flavor, and experience its full potential as a distilled spirit that can be enjoyed in many different ways.

For more information about shochu, participating bars, and the Death & Co. event, visit *shochu-jfoodo.jetro.go.jp/index.html.*

*subject to change

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COMICS

SUDOKU

Level: Moderate

		9		4				8
			5			9		
1	6	7				2		
	3	4					9	
	7		2		1		4	
	8					6		
						4	3	7
		6			2			
4				1		5		

Level: Gentle

		5		6	2
	3	6			
				1	
2	6		3		
			4		

9	3	5	8	1	6	7	2	4
8	4	1	2	7	9	5	6	3
2	7	6	4	5	3	1	8	9
7	9	8	1	6	5	3	4	2
4	6	2	3	8	7	9	5	1
1	5	3	9	4	2	8	7	6
6	2	9	7	3	8	4	1	5
5	8	4	6	9	1	2	3	7
3	1	7	5	2	4	6	9	8

6	1	3	5	4	2
5	4	2	1	3	6
3	2	6	4	5	1
4	5	1	2	6	3
2	6	5	3	1	4
1	3	4	6	2	5

Solutions to Tuesday's puzzles

1/25/23

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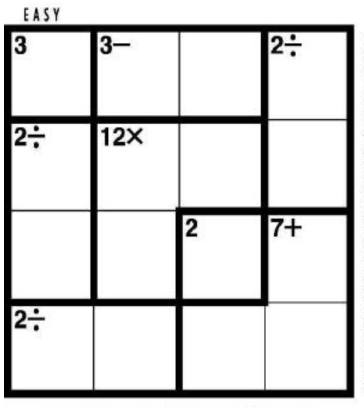
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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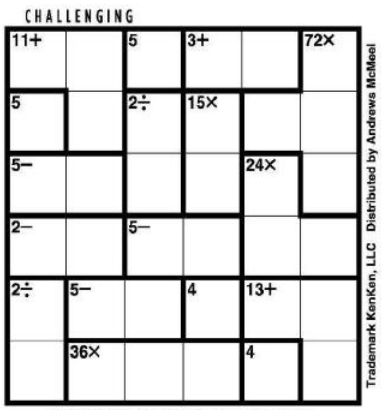
CHALLENGING



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PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2	3	4	1
4	1	2	3
3	2	1	4
1	4	3	2

6	5	4	2	3	1
5	2	6	3	1	4
4	1	2	5	6	3
1	4	3	6	5	2
2	3	5	1	4	6
3	6	1	4	2	5

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1/25/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): An attractive and exciting vitality pulses through even your mundane moments.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Growth is a side effect of the struggle to get to a goal. You've earned your self-improvement and you're on your way to another big one.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Time will be on your side, but only after you've done the groundwork.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): It takes effort to learn the particulars of a culture, the manners of a land and the etiquette of particular situations.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You're out to win friends, fans, customers and hearts. Lean into charm-school basics like learning people's names.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Though there are no guarantees in life, there are certainly varying degrees of risk, and you're not in the mood to take any more than is necessary today.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): It's commonly believed that every moment is nonrecoverable. You challenge the premise, defying physics, flying to worlds to work out the past or future in new ways.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You directed some energy into worry. Redirect it all into action or into deciding on the next action.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're undaunted by difficulty and feel confident in your ability to either do the job or learn something and then do the job.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotional triggers are like light switches. Something very small can trigger a lot, depending on how it's wired.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll direct negative energy into positive things. The energy either gets absorbed, dissipates or provides an interesting contrast.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Shadows are not things, only the evidence of things. You'll bring illumination to the scene by focusing on what really matters.

Today's birthday (Jan. 25): Your work for the common good leads to your own flourishing. Collaborations delight you. Together you'll solve problems from the technical to the emotional and behavioral. Most things are made better because of your knack for picking good people. Other highlights: musical nights, wilderness and a short, lucrative journey. Taurus and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers: 4, 44, 48, 20 and 16.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Emma Lawson

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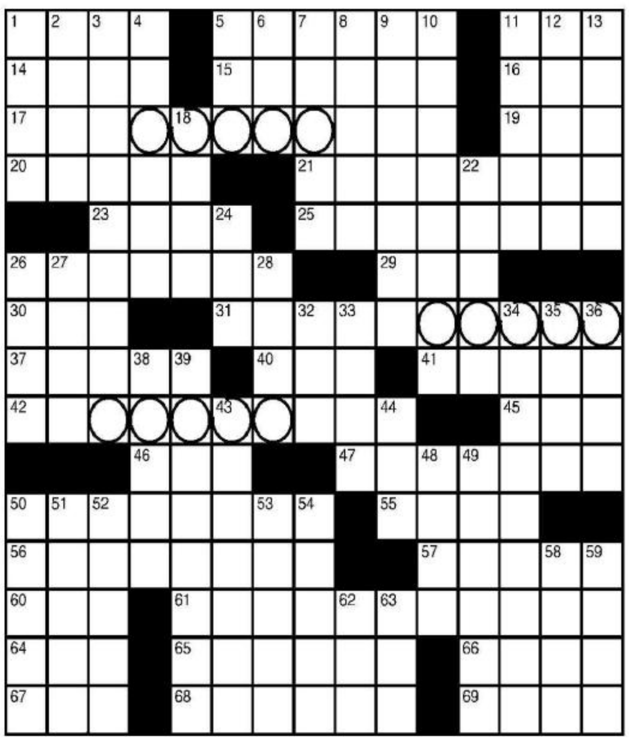


ACROSS
- **1** __ Sutra
- **5** Charlatans
- **11** Smidgen
- **14** Classic Camaro
- **15** Breaks things off
- **16** Tankard filler
- **17** Charitable undertaking that deserves support
- **19** Right Guard alternative
- **20** Feedback
- **21** Bullfighters
- **23** "Go for the Goal" memoirist Mia
- **25** Tried to avoid the catcher's tag
- **26** Pan
- **29** "Weetzie Bat" series writer Francesca __ Block
- **30** Break the tape
- **31** Bit of false modesty
- **37** Religious platform
- **40** Scottish refusal
- **41** Tuscan city whose university was founded in 1240
- **42** "Ugh, shut up already"
- **45** 2016 Super Bowl MVP __ Miller
- **46** "I've got it!"
- **47** Talking back to
- **50** Temporada con nieve
- **55** Connections
- **56** Jazz trumpeter Wynton
- **57** Cuts
- **60** Big fuss
- **61** Make waves, and a hint to this puzzle's circles
- **64** Tech exec
- **65** Much of North Africa
- **66** Memo phrase
- **67** "Grace and Frankie" actor Waterston
- **68** Lure into wrongdoing
- **69** "On the double!" abbr.

DOWN
- **1** New Zealand bird
- **2** "East of Eden" brother based on Abel
- **3** Completely become
- **4** Real
- **5** Tina with a recurring role on "Only Murders in the Building"
- **6** GOP org.
- **7** "Run to You" singer Bryan
- **8** Typical
- **9** Purify, in a way
- **10** Makes less wobbly
- **11** Simply not done
- **12** Wake-up call?
- **13** Pretty thick
- **18** Webmaster's code
- **22** Abu __
- **24** Just okay
- **26** Ugly duckling's true self
- **27** Approximately 2.2 lbs.
- **28** Fish in a negitoro roll
- **32** Mo. after Leap Day
- **33** Orchard pollinators
- **34** Subsequent drafts
- **35** Quote book abbr.
- **36** Crew
- **38** Diarist Nin
- **39** Prepare for a show
- **43** Assistance in getting a ride?
- **44** Plopped down in a chair
- **48** Location
- **49** Croatia neighbor
- **50** Apple desktops
- **51** Gymnast Comaneci
- **52** Revving sound
- **53** Not, in German
- **54** Liam's "Schindler's List" role
- **58** "Where Am I Now?" memoirist Wilson
- **59** Pedometer unit
- **62** La-la lead-in
- **63** Luck, to Shakespeare

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

C	P	R	■	S	O	C	A	L	■	S	W	A	T	■
L	E	O	■	A	N	I	T	A	■	C	A	S	I	O
E	T	S	■	R	O	A	S	T	T	U	R	K	E	Y
A	R	E	P	A	■	■	■	I	B	M	■	S	I	S
R	A	C	I	N	G	M	I	N	D	■	M	O	N	T
■	T	U	T	■	R	O	N	A	■	B	R	U	T	E
■	■	T	A	B	O	O	S	■	C	A	P	T	O	R
■	■	■	C	O	U	R	T	C	A	S	E	■	■	■
I	F	T	H	A	T	■	O	L	D	H	A	T	■	■
N	E	V	I	S	■	T	R	U	E	■	N	O	W	■
D	U	M	P	■	S	H	E	E	T	M	U	S	I	C
I	D	O	■	J	A	W	■	■	■	E	T	H	E	R
G	I	V	E	I	T	A	R	E	S	T	■	I	N	A
O	N	I	O	N	■	C	A	M	E	O	■	B	E	N
■	G	E	N	X	■	K	Y	O	T	O	■	A	R	K

1/25/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

My friend Second Hand Rose played at the club today. When the lesson about "second hand low" was taught, Rose was out on a date with Jiggs the plumber.

In a team match, both Souths played at four hearts. North's jump to three hearts invited game. West led the king of clubs, and both declarers took dummy's ace and casually led a diamond.

At one table, East played the nine. South took his ace, drew trumps, ruffed dummy's last club and exited with a diamond. When East won, he had to lead a club, conceding a ruff-sluff, or a spade from his jack. South had only two more losers, making four.

Rose was East in the replay. When dummy led a diamond at Trick Two, Second Hand Rose ... with the king (!), a play that could hardly cost. Play continued as at the first table, but when South exited with a diamond at the sixth trick, West took the 10 and jack and led the queen, forcing dummy. South had to break the spades, and he lost two tricks there for down one.

You hold: ♠ Q 10 3 ♥ K 10 7 5 2 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ A 5. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and he bids two clubs. The opponents pass. What do you say?

Answer: Your hand is slightly too weak for a forward-going second bid of 2NT, and a rebid of two hearts would suggest weakness but a longer or at least a much more robust suit. Bid two diamonds. Maybe partner will bid again, but the contract will be playable if he must pass.

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 10 3
♥ K 10 7 5 2
♦ 6 5 2
♣ A 5

WEST
♠ A 8 7
♥ 6
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ K Q J 9 4

EAST
♠ J 9 6 4
♥ 8 3
♦ K 9
♣ 10 8 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K 5 2
♥ A Q J 9 4
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	2 ♣	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♣ K

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Tread carefully with DNA

Dear Amy: I am the father of four sons in their 20s, divorced from their alcoholic mother 17 years ago.

Shortly after my divorce, I learned from a friend of my ex that she began her long streak of infidelities in the first year of our marriage.

I was aware that she was "spending time" with male co-workers, including one in particular, during a time that coincides with the conception of one of my sons.

This son does not resemble his brothers. His physical characteristics strongly resemble that co-worker.

I have questioned for years whether I am his biological father.

For his sake and mine, I have considered discussing this with him or getting DNA testing done.

I cannot discuss this with my sons' mom, because I will never get the truth.

Is it wrong to discuss this with my son and/or get DNA tests to confirm or deny our biological connection?

Heartsick in the Heartland

Dear Heartsick: It isn't necessarily wrong to try to discuss this with your son, but if you do, prepare yourself for a wide range of reactions, from relief to rejection.

You should closely examine your motives for wanting to determine his DNA.

This sort of DNA revelation can be destabilizing, not only for an individual but for the entire family system.

I always advocate for an individual's right to know the truth about their DNA, but for your son, having this question posed to him by a parent — versus his choice to investigate on his own — could be very tough. (And if you make this allegation and you are proven to be biologically related, what then?)

I suggest you have your own DNA tested. See where that effort takes you. If your adult sons have already had their DNA tested, your family connection (or lack of it) might be revealed through the testing database.

Dear Amy: My boyfriend just proposed to me. I joyfully accepted, and then four hours later I found out that my grandmother died.

It was unexpected and painful.

I am having a hard time feeling the joy I am supposed to be feeling right now.

Because of the upcoming funeral, my fiancé and I will get to see family members whom I have not seen in a while, and I don't know if this is the time to tell them of our engagement, though I imagine some may notice my ring.

Should I hold off telling my family about the engagement until everyone has had time to grieve this loss?

Would sharing the engagement overshadow the celebration of life we should be focusing on?

And if I wait, should I hide my ring?

Grief and Joy

Dear Grief and Joy: I think you should tell your immediate family about your engagement now (if you haven't already).

Don't make any sort of public announcement during or after your grandmother's memorial, but don't hide your ring either.

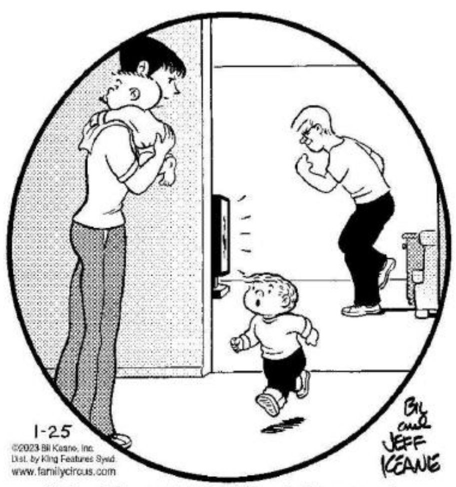
If people ask about your ring, confirm your engagement and let them congratulate you. This happier news reminds everyone that good things happen, even in otherwise tough times.

A couple of weeks after the funeral, you might announce your news to a wider circle, and on social media.

I hope it provides some comfort to understand that your grandmother would have wanted you to experience joy and excitement.

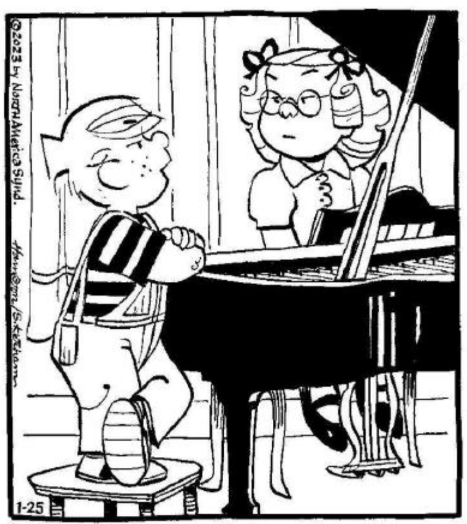
Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com.*

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



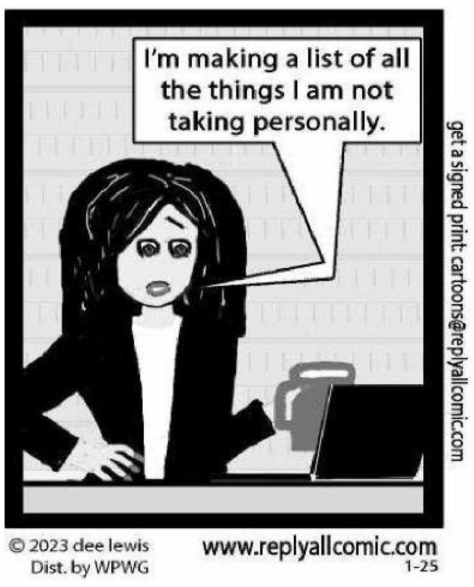
"Daddy got the Final Jeopardy question right! Are we rich now?"

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



"WELL, I'M GOOD AT *NOT* PLAYING THE PIANO AND I *NEVER* HAD A LESSON."

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis


I'm making a list of all the things I am not taking personally.
get a signed print: cartoons@replyallcomic.com
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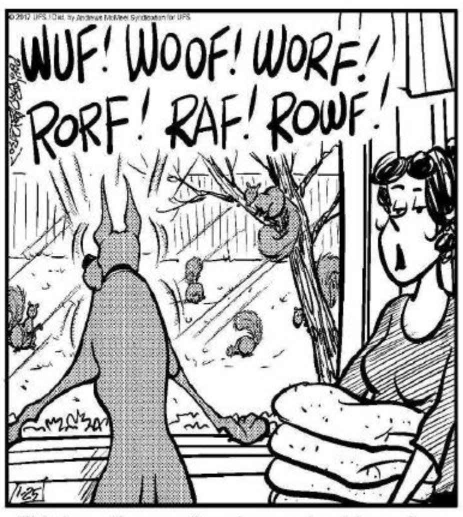
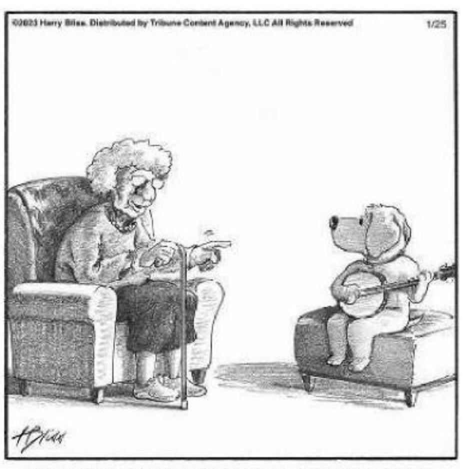
Dist. by WPWG
www.replyallcomic.com
1-25

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson


WUF! WOOF! WORF! RORF! RAF! ROWF!
1-25

"Relax, the squirrels are just burying acorns. They're not after your bones."

BLISS By Harry Bliss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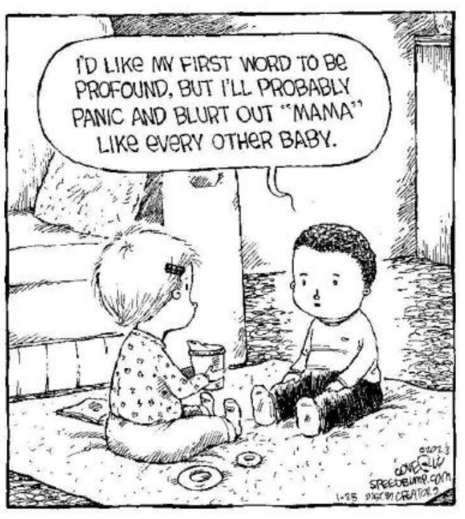
1/25
H Bliss

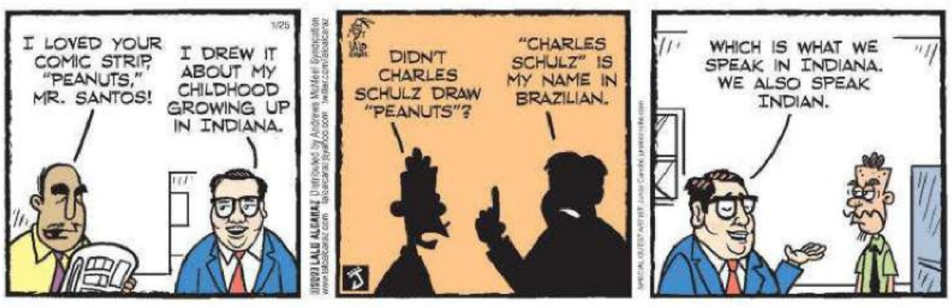
"Play 'She Got the Gold Mine, I Got the Shaft' by Jerry Reed."

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

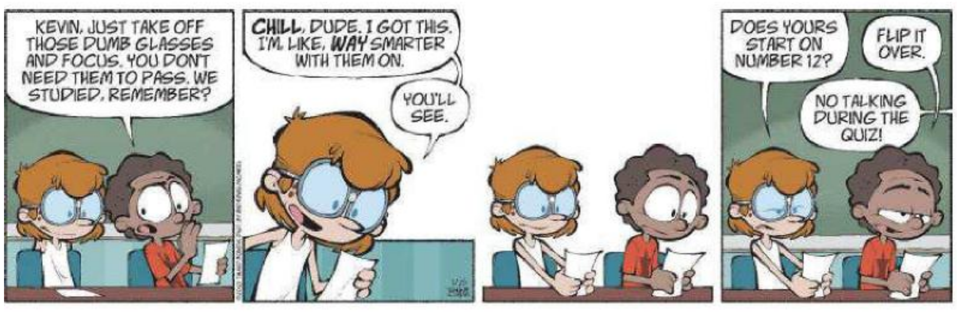

I'D LIKE MY FIRST WORD TO BE PROFOUND, BUT I'LL PROBABLY PANIC AND BLURT OUT "MAMA" LIKE EVERY OTHER BABY.
speedbump.com
1-25

COMICS

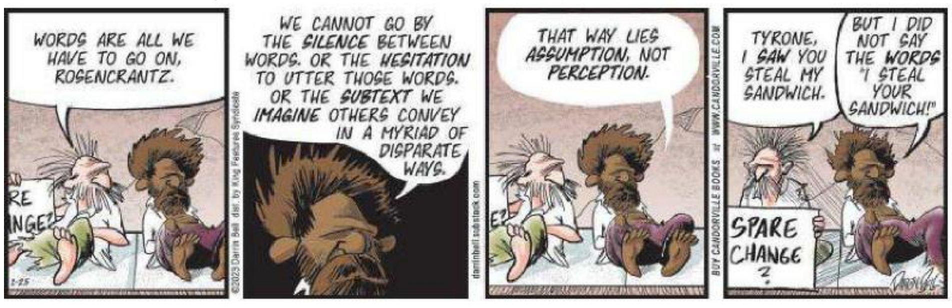
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


I LOVED YOUR COMIC STRIP, "PEANUTS," MR. SANTOS!
I DREW IT ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD GROWING UP IN INDIANA.
DIDN'T CHARLES SCHULZ DRAW "PEANUTS"?
"CHARLES SCHULZ" IS MY NAME IN BRAZILIAN.
WHICH IS WHAT WE SPEAK IN INDIANA. WE ALSO SPEAK INDIAN.
1/25

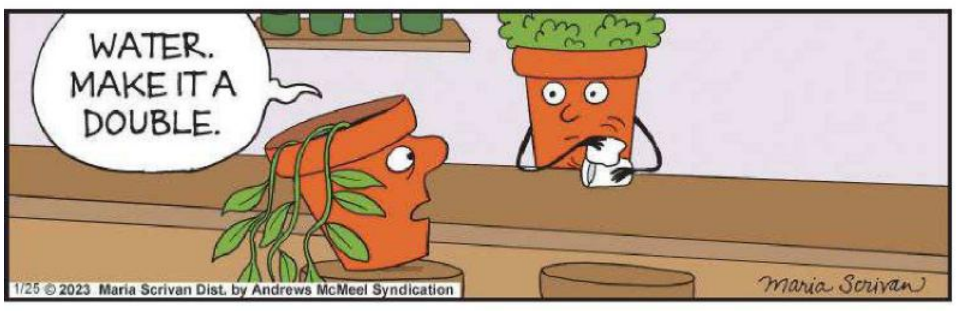
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


KEVIN. JUST TAKE OFF THOSE DUMB GLASSES AND FOCUS. YOU DONT NEED THEM TO PASS. WE STUDIED. REMEMBER?
CHILL. DUDE. I GOT THIS. I'M LIKE. WAY SMARTER WITH THEM ON.
YOU'LL SEE.
DOES YOURS START ON NUMBER 12?
FLIP IT OVER.
NO TALKING DURING THE QUIZ!

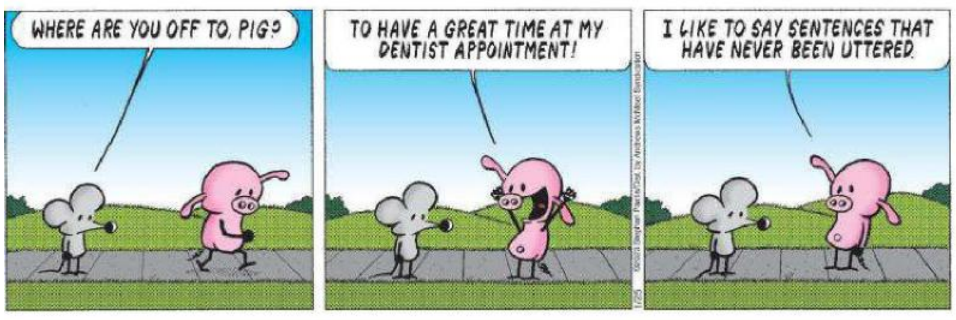
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


WORDS ARE ALL WE HAVE TO GO ON, ROSENCRANTZ.
WE CANNOT GO BY THE SILENCE BETWEEN WORDS. OR THE HESITATION TO UTTER THOSE WORDS. OR THE SUBTEXT WE IMAGINE OTHERS CONVEY IN A MYRIAD OF DISPARATE WAYS.
THAT WAY LIES ASSUMPTION, NOT PERCEPTION.
TYRONE, I SAW YOU STEAL MY SANDWICH.
BUT I DID NOT SAY THE WORDS "I STEAL YOUR SANDWICH!"
SPARE CHANGE ?
WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM

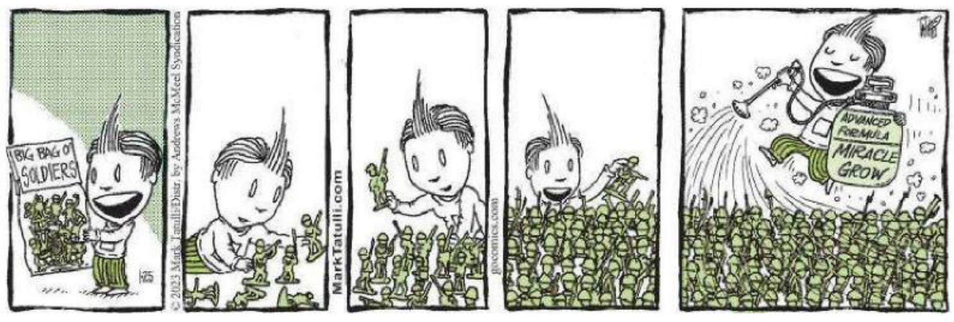
HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan


WATER. MAKE IT A DOUBLE.
1/25 © 2023 Maria Scrivan Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
Maria Scrivan

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO, PIG?
TO HAVE A GREAT TIME AT MY DENTIST APPOINTMENT!
I LIKE TO SAY SENTENCES THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN UTTERED.

LIO By Mark Tatulli


BIG BAG OF SOLDIERS
ADVANCED FORMULA MIRACLE GROW
MarkTatulli.com
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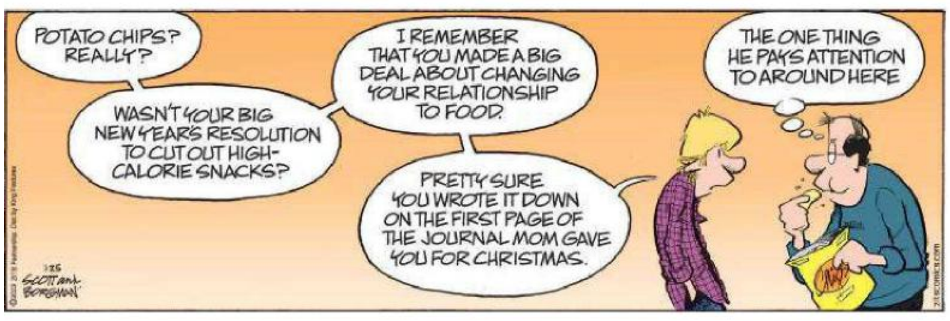
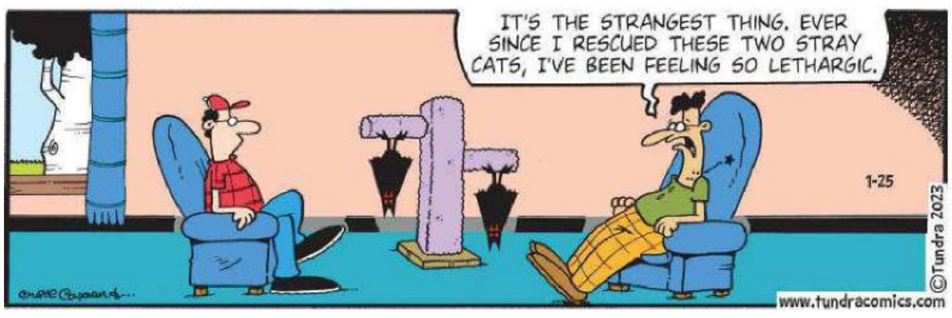
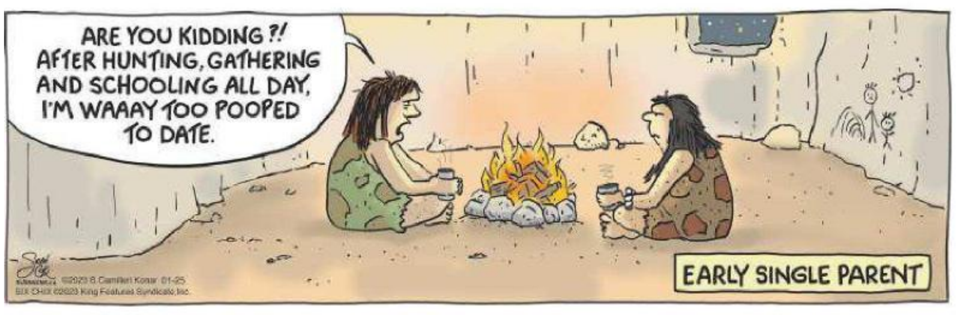
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman


POTATO CHIPS? REALLY?
WASN'T YOUR BIG NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO CUT OUT HIGH-CALORIE SNACKS?
I REMEMBER THAT YOU MADE A BIG DEAL ABOUT CHANGING YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO FOOD.
PRETTY SURE YOU WROTE IT DOWN ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE JOURNAL MOM GAVE YOU FOR CHRISTMAS.
THE ONE THING HE PAYS ATTENTION TO AROUND HERE
SCOTT and BORGMAN

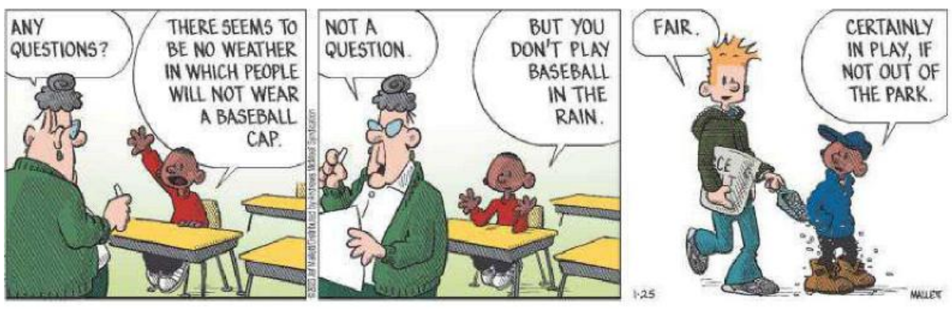
TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter


IT'S THE STRANGEST THING. EVER SINCE I RESCUED THESE TWO STRAY CATS, I'VE BEEN FEELING SO LETHARGIC.
1-25
©Tundra 2023
www.tundracomics.com

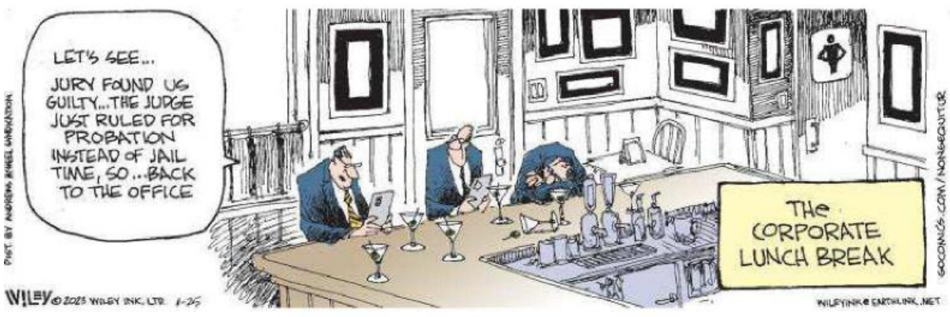
SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar


ARE YOU KIDDING?! AFTER HUNTING, GATHERING AND SCHOOLING ALL DAY, I'M WAAAY TOO POOPED TO DATE.
EARLY SINGLE PARENT
©2023 S. Camilleri Konar 01-25
SIX CHIX ©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


ANY QUESTIONS?
THERE SEEMS TO BE NO WEATHER IN WHICH PEOPLE WILL NOT WEAR A BASEBALL CAP.
NOT A QUESTION.
BUT YOU DON'T PLAY BASEBALL IN THE RAIN.
FAIR.
CERTAINLY IN PLAY, IF NOT OUT OF THE PARK.
1-25
MALLETT

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


LET'S SEE... JURY FOUND US GUILTY...THE JUDGE JUST RULED FOR PROBATION INSTEAD OF JAIL TIME, SO...BACK TO THE OFFICE
The CORPORATE LUNCH BREAK
WILEY © 2023 WILEY INK, LTD. 1-25
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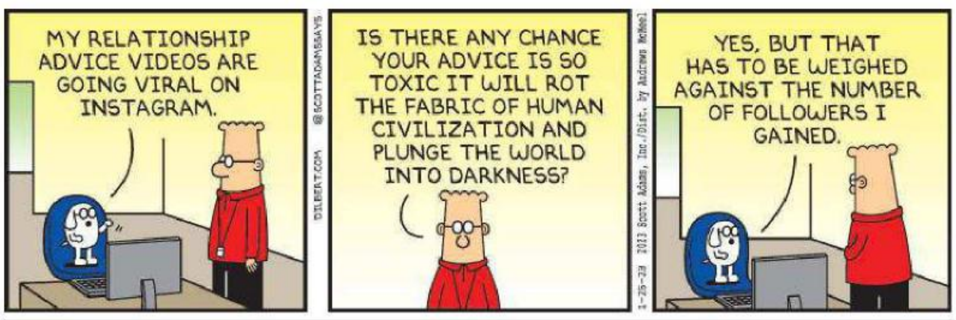
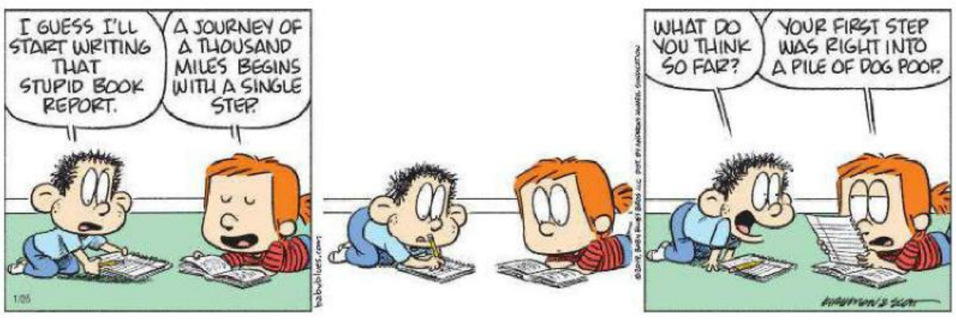
WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET

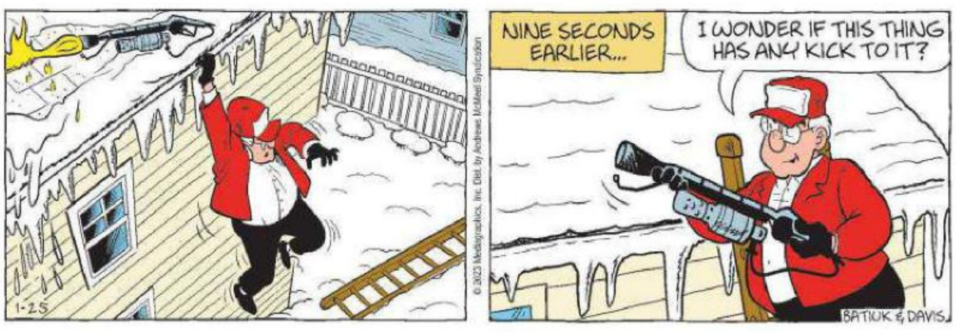
DILBERT By Scott Adams


MY RELATIONSHIP ADVICE VIDEOS ARE GOING VIRAL ON INSTAGRAM.
IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOUR ADVICE IS SO TOXIC IT WILL ROT THE FABRIC OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION AND PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO DARKNESS?
YES, BUT THAT HAS TO BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS I GAINED.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
1-25-23 2023 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman


I GUESS I'LL START WRITING THAT STUPID BOOK REPORT.
A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP.
WHAT DO YOU THINK SO FAR?
YOUR FIRST STEP WAS RIGHT INTO A PILE OF DOG POOP.
babyblues.com
1/25

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers


NINE SECONDS EARLIER...
I WONDER IF THIS THING HAS ANY KICK TO IT?
1-25
BATIUK & DAVIS
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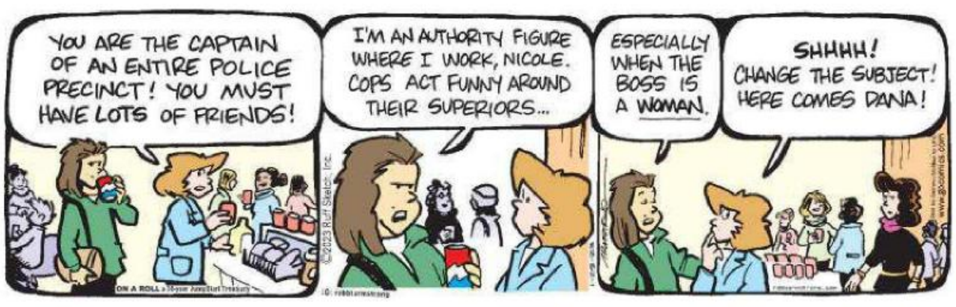
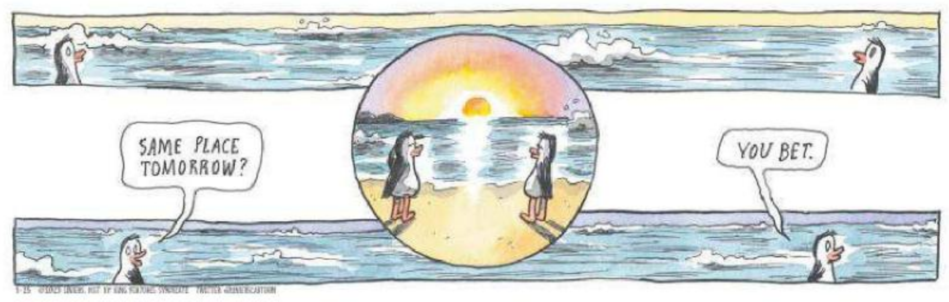
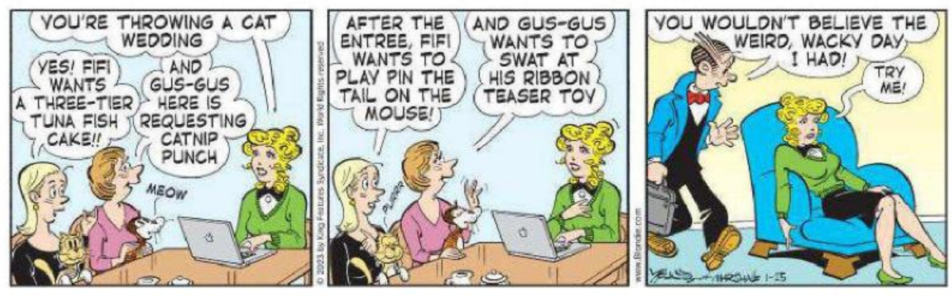
JUMP START By Robb Armstrong


YOU ARE THE CAPTAIN OF AN ENTIRE POLICE PRECINCT! YOU MUST HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS!
I'M AN AUTHORITY FIGURE WHERE I WORK, NICOLE. COPS ACT FUNNY AROUND THEIR SUPERIORS...
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BOSS IS A WOMAN.
SHHHH! CHANGE THE SUBJECT! HERE COMES DANA!
©2023 Ruff Sketch, Inc.

MACANUDO By Liniers


SAME PLACE TOMORROW?
YOU BET.

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall


YOU'RE THROWING A CAT WEDDING
YES! FIFI WANTS A THREE-TIER TUNA FISH CAKE!!
AND GUS-GUS HERE IS REQUESTING CATNIP PUNCH
MEOW
AFTER THE ENTREE, FIFI WANTS TO PLAY PIN THE TAIL ON THE MOUSE!
AND GUS-GUS WANTS TO SWAT AT HIS RIBBON TEASER TOY
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE WEIRD, WACKY DAY I HAD!
TRY ME!
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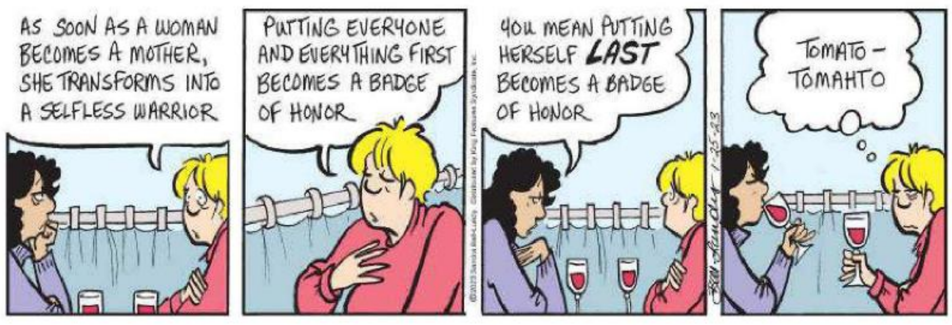
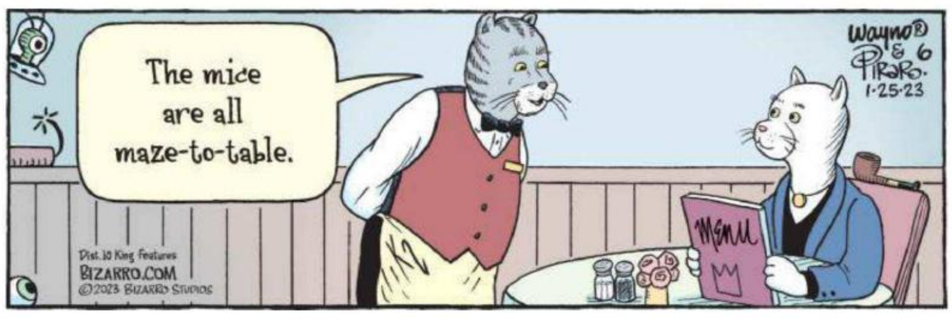
www.Blondie.com
1-25

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy


AS SOON AS A WOMAN BECOMES A MOTHER, SHE TRANSFORMS INTO A SELFLESS WARRIOR
PUTTING EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING FIRST BECOMES A BADGE OF HONOR
YOU MEAN PUTTING HERSELF LAST BECOMES A BADGE OF HONOR
TOMATO – TOMAHTO
1-25-23

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro


The mice are all maze-to-table.
Wayno & Piraro 1-25-23
MENU
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
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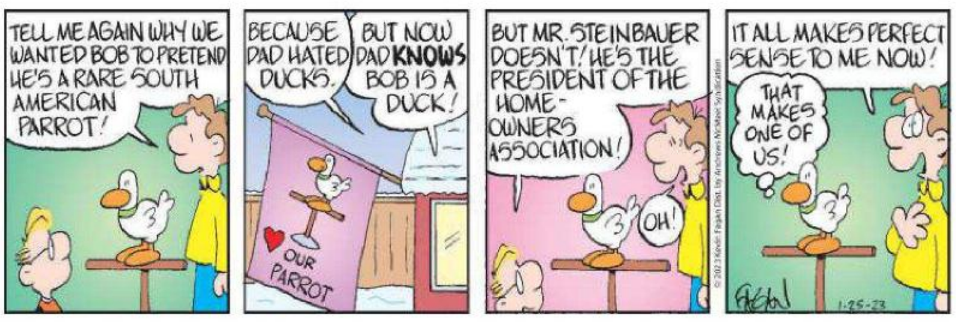
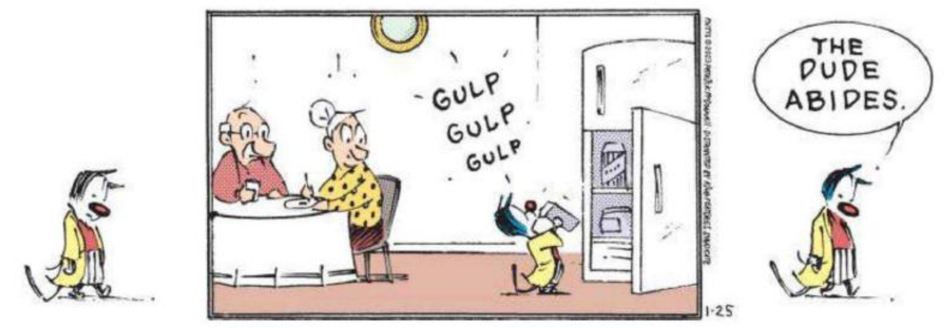
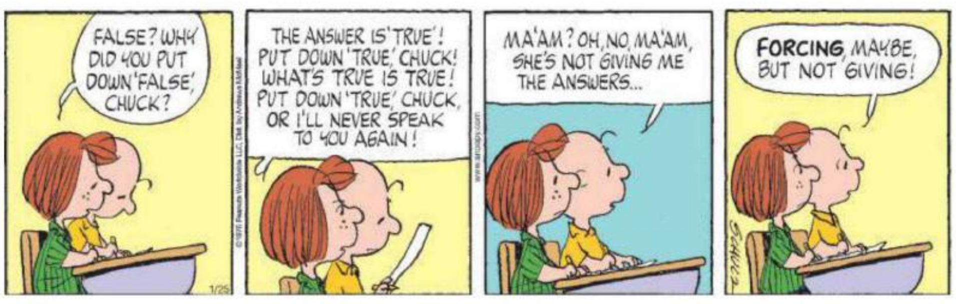
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan


TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE WANTED BOB TO PRETEND HE'S A RARE SOUTH AMERICAN PARROT!
BECAUSE DAD HATED DUCKS.
BUT NOW DAD KNOWS BOB IS A DUCK!
OUR PARROT
BUT MR. STEINBAUER DOESN'T! HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOME-OWNERS ASSOCIATION!
OH!
IT ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME NOW!
THAT MAKES ONE OF US!
1-25-23

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


GULP GULP GULP
THE DUDE ABIDES.
1-25

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz


FALSE? WHY DID YOU PUT DOWN 'FALSE,' CHUCK?
THE ANSWER IS 'TRUE'! PUT DOWN 'TRUE,' CHUCK! WHAT'S TRUE IS TRUE! PUT DOWN 'TRUE,' CHUCK, OR I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN!
MA'AM? OH, NO, MA'AM, SHE'S NOT GIVING ME THE ANSWERS...
FORCING, MAYBE, BUT NOT GIVING!
1/25
SCHULZ

Unexpected decisions

[**Snubs,** from E1]

But that's the exception, not the rule. Meanwhile, here are the "snubs" and surprises for the 95th Academy Awards, which will be handed out March 12, a date so far away that it feels like a surprise and a snub in and of itself.

SURPRISE
Andrea Riseborough, "To Leslie" (lead actress)

In perhaps the greatest grassroots campaign in Oscar history, Riseborough's team enlisted the help of dozens of A-list actors to stump for her searing turn as an addict in "To Leslie," a movie that premiered in March at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, and grossed $27,000 in its brief theatrical run. Amy Adams moderated a virtual screening not long after a similar event by Kate Winslet, who gushed: "You should be up for everything. You should be winning everything. Andrea Riseborough, I think this is the greatest female performance onscreen I have ever seen in my life." Hyperbole? Yes. But Riseborough has been revered by her colleagues and critics for years, and this late-breaking push tapped into that love just as Oscar voting began.

SNUB
Tom Cruise, "Top Gun: Maverick" (lead actor)

To be fair, I don't think anyone — even Cruise himself — thought he'd earn an Oscar nod for playing Capt. Pete "Maverick" Mitchell in a sequel to an action movie released 36 released years ago. But because the lead actor field wasn't crowded with contenders from high-profile pictures, many thought Cruise could sneak in and earn his first nod since 1999's "Magnolia." He did pick up a nomination for producing "Top Gun: Maverick," which was recognized for best picture. Is that reason to jump up and down on the couch? Kind of ... right?

SURPRISE
Ana de Armas, "Blonde" (lead actress)

Andrew Dominik's nightmarish look at the tragic life of Marilyn Monroe was miserable, ghoulish and tasteless ... but De Armas seamlessly portrayed the screen legend with such command and empathy that you could almost forgive the misguided approach. Acting branch voters find it hard to resist performances based on well-known figures (Lydia Tár is real, right?), so even with the brutal reviews, De Armas had a built-in advantage.

SNUB
Danielle Deadwyler, "Till" (lead actress)

"Till" had strong support early in the season, with actors like Cher coming out to host screenings and campaign for Deadwyler's understated portrait of a grieving mother resolving to honor her son. Did Chinonye Chukwu's drama about Emmett Till, the 14-year-old whose 1955 Mississippi murder helped spur the civil rights movement, get lost as the weeks went by? I really don't know how else to explain this truly unfortunate omission.

SNUB
Viola Davis, "The Woman King" (lead actress)

"The Woman King" was most definitely seen by audiences, grossing nearly $100 million in U.S. box office. The American Film Institute also named it one of the year's 10 best movies. But Oscar voters bypassed it completely, a shocking shutout, particularly pertaining to the movie's revered lead actress.

SURPRISE
"Women Talking" (best picture)

Lauded out of Telluride and feted subsequently at the Toronto and New York film festivals, Sarah Polley's breathtaking drama seemed to lose steam once the fall fests ended. Admittedly, its story — a group of Mennonite women must decide whether to leave the community after discovering they've been drugged and sexually assaulted — was a hard sell ... unless you've seen the film. And then "Women Talking" becomes a movie you want everyone you know to see. The strong word-of-mouth carried the day.

SNUB
"Babylon" (best picture)

Babylon Hive is very much a thing on social media, and I do not begrudge these enthusiasts their love for Damien Chazelle's big swing (and a miss) movie and their belief that its estimation will grow in time. But for now, Oscar voters were not swayed by their passion or the film's unrelenting extravagance, ignoring actors Margot Robbie and Brad Pitt and nominating the picture only for score, production design and costume design.

Michael Gibson Orion Releasing

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"WOMEN Talking," top, "Blonde's" Ana de Armas, above right, got nods; "Till's" Danielle Deadwyler, middle left, and "Bardo," left, did not.

SNUB
James Cameron, "Avatar: The Way of Water" (director)

I guess he'll just have to be content with the $2 billion in box office and the knowledge that he pushed the digital realm of the art form forward in a way that only he could.

SURPRISE
Judd Hirsch, "The Fabelmans" (supporting actor)

Hirsch's powerhouse explanation of "The Fabelmans' " theme — "Family, art, life — it will tear you in two!" — gave us one of the year's best scenes. But after early festival raves — the audience at its AFI Fest premiere applauded loudly when the scene ended — there was a sense that Hirsch simply wasn't in the movie long enough to earn a nomination. Fact is, he stole the movie. And, it would seem, voters' hearts as well.

SURPRISE
Brian Tyree Henry, "Causeway" (supporting actor)

Henry is one of those actors who elevates everything he's in, and his work opposite Jennifer Lawrence in this moving Apple TV+ drama is no exception. Playing an auto repair shop owner trying his best to deal with a tragic past, Henry strongly communicates the character's pain and humanity without words. What's left unsaid lingers. And it did for voters.

SNUB
Paul Dano, "The Fabelmans" (supporting actor)

With Hirsch and Henry in, someone had to go. Sadly that was Dano, who grounds "The Fabelmans," portraying the family's gentle patriarch, a character that could have been bland with a less interesting actor.

SNUB
"Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths" (international feature)

After it was savaged at fall film festivals, Alejandro G. Iñárritu recut "Bardo," removing around 20 minutes from the original 184-minute movie. But the early negative reviews, combined with the film's still leisurely running time, must have scared away some voters from giving it a proper look.

SURPRISE
Paul Mescal, "Aftersun" (lead actor)

You know he's Irish. You sighed over his vulnerability and openness in "Normal People." Maybe you knew he was 26, which makes him 4½ years younger than fellow first-time nominee Austin Butler. That youth and the relatively low profile of Charlotte Wells' aching "Aftersun" made me think he'd be an outsider when nominations landed. But Mescal gives such a raw, tender performance in the movie that he's impossible to ignore.

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LIVING PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:30
NO BEARS
1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA
1332 Second Street Santa Monica
CHESS STORY
1:10 7:20
SAINT OMER PG-13
4:00 PM
BROKER R
1:00 PM
CORSAGE
4:20 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13
1:10 6:50
EO
4:30 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R
6:50 PM
TÁR R
1:00 3:50 6:45
FLYING BOAT
1:00 3:05 5:10 7:30
IMMACULATE
1:20 4:10 7:10

TOWN CENTER
17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
THE SON PG-13
1:10 4:10 7:20
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13
1:00 4:10 7:10
BROKER R
4:00 PM
LIVING PG-13
1:30 4:30 7:30
NO BEARS
1:20 4:20 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13
1:00 7:00

NEWHALL
22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
MISSING PG-13
1:10 4:20 7:20
THE SON PG-13
4:20 PM
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13
1:00 4:00 7:00
PLANE R
1:20 4:10 7:20
M3GAN PG-13
1:30 4:30 7:30
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG
1:30 4:30 7:10
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13
1:20 6:30
THE WHALE R
7:10 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13
1:00 PM

GLENDALE
207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
NEW GODS: YANG JIAN
SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;
1:20 4:15 7:15
THE SON PG-13
1:10 4:10
BEAUTIFUL BEINGS SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;
1:00 PM
SKINAMARINK
7:10 PM
BROKER R SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;
4:00 PM
CORSAGE
4:20 PM
LIVING PG-13
1:30 7:20
ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED
1:00 PM
EO SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;
7:30 PM
DECISION TO LEAVE SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;
6:55 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R
3:40 PM

NoHo 7
5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
IN FROM THE SIDE
12:55 7:00
THE SON PG-13
1:00 4:15
WOMEN TALKING PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:20
PLANE R
1:20 4:10 7:15
SAINT OMER PG-13
4:00 PM
SKINAMARINK
7:30 PM
M3GAN PG-13
1:30 4:30 7:30
THE WHALE R
1:10 4:10 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13
1:00 4:00 6:55

CLAREMONT
450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
THE SON PG-13
1:00 4:10 7:10
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13
1:00 4:10 7:10
SAINT OMER PG-13
4:00 PM
BROKER R
4:00 PM
NO BEARS
1:15 7:30
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG
1:30 4:30 7:20
THE WHALE R
1:10 7:00

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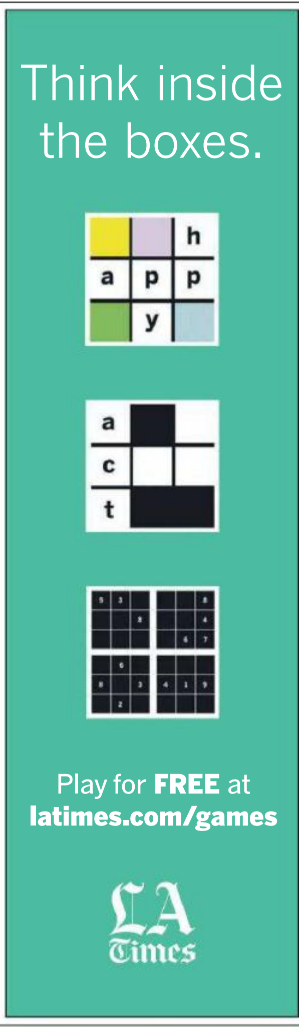

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International Daily

Lantern fair in Shenyang marks return of Spring Festival tourists

SHENYANG -- The biggest lantern fair in northeast China's Shenyang, being held every year as part of Spring Festival celebrations, is witnessing a rebound of tourist arrivals in the city.

For people in the northern part of China, visiting lantern fairs and solving lantern riddles are traditional activities during the Spring Festival, and a way for families to celebrate together.

In Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, a lantern fair covering an area of more than 20,000 square meters, with more than 70 sets of large light installations illuminating the city's night sky, has become an attraction to visitors.

The event has been held for more than 10 years now and this year visitors will be impressed by a display called 'Sky City' made up of 28-meter-long lanterns suspended from a height of 14 meters. Visible from a distance are designs of auspicious clouds, jade rabbits, flying birds together with other patterns, all of which represent auspicious symbols in Chinese culture.

There are also two sets of lamps that combine designs featuring ancient Chinese mythology with the concept of modern space exploration. They show classic characters in Chinese mythology, such as the goddess Nyuwa who mends the sky and Bi Fang who brought fire. On the other side is a vast universe showing major galaxies, astronauts and visitors to space.

This year is also the first time in three years that China's pandemic travel restrictions have been eased. Staff at the fair say the number of tourists coming to the fair every day has increased compared to the same period last year. They are confident tourist numbers will continue to grow this year.

A special Spring Festival fair is held on a high-speed train from Qingdao

QINGDAO -- A special Spring Festival fair has been held on a high-speed train from Qingdao City of east China's Shandong Province to Shanghai.

In addition to providing more than 20 kinds of Shandong's characteristic products such as Dezhou braised chicken and Liuting braised pig's trotters, the train crew also staged paper-cutting, couplet writing and opera performances to make passengers' home-coming trips more enjoyable.

Cities across China hold various celebrations for Spring Festival

YIWU -- The Chinese people are holding all kinds of celebrations to greet the Spring Festival, China's most important holiday centering on family reunions.

In 2023, the Chinese Lunar New Year fell on January 22, ushering in the Year of the Rabbit, fourth in line on the Chinese zodiac.

In Liaocheng City of east China's Shandong Province, many people swarmed to a local open-air fair to buy food, delicacies and holiday decorations for festival celebrations.

"Actually I've prepared everything for the festival. I just feel happy here, even though I don't need to buy anything. It's just for fun," said Zong Yanxia, a local resident.

Yiwu City in east China presented a live traditional Chinese opera performance, a traditional Chinese fashion show and a light show for residents. Folk artists were invited to display their intangible cultural heritage skills. Visitors can get Spring Festival couplets for free from calligraphy lovers.

Pingyao, a UNESCO world cultural heritage site in north China's Shanxi Province, has been decorated with red lanterns to welcome tourists from all over the country during the week-long Spring Festival holiday that starts from January 21.

As some parts of China have the tradition of buying phalaenopsis orchids during the Spring Festival, flower suppliers are happy to see half of their inventory already cleared up one week before the festival.

"This is the first year I do online group buying. I didn't expect so many orders. We've sold half of our phalaenopsis orchids. We expect a high sales volume of phalaenopsis orchids this year," said Guo Ziwei, a flower supplier.

With the Spring Festival just around the corner and the Chinese people busy with special purchases for the festival, sales of fresh seafood and fruits have surged in many cities.

"Now we supply over 1,300 tons of vegetables and 300 tons of fruits per day," said Lu Bo, deputy general manager of the Jiangnan Agricultural Products Wholesale Market in Haikou City of south China's Hainan Province.

Adorable "iPanda" video footage captures giant pandas enjoying refreshing bath time

CHENGDU -- Livestream video footage has shown amusing scenes of giant pandas thriving at a nature reserve, with three pandas seen enjoying a leisurely dip in their outdoor pool in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The footage was captured on the "iPanda" multimedia platform, which provides round-the-clock live broadcasts of the daily life and activities of pandas in the nature reserves of southwest China.

The trio of bears were seen taking time out from their busy schedule of munching on bamboo by relaxing in the rock-lined pool in their enclosure. One of the pandas seemed to be something of a veteran bath-taker, splashing water onto its body and soaking in some of nature's free delights, seemingly intent on creating his own jacuzzi effect by thrashing the water around excitedly.

The "iPanda" channel is supported by the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda, a world leading institution for the breeding and conservation of one of China's national treasures. The center also established a global platform promoting international cooperation and exchanges involving 18 zoos from 16 countries and regions, as well as 39 domestic animal breeding institutions and more than 10 scientific research institutes.

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Qingdao to transform into a quality trade hub

Qingdao FTZ is a highland attracting foreign investment. **By Zhang Jingang**

The eastern coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong province, will intensify efforts to implement a series of measures to promote the development of foreign trade, seize the opportunity in the new round of foreign trade development, and speed up its construction into a strong international trade city and a highland to attract foreign investment, said local officials.

The remarks were made during a special working conference on the city's foreign trade held on Jan 7.

The city will deepen integrated development of investment and trade, trade and industry, goods and services, online and offline trade modes, and domestic and foreign trade, and raise the level of trade supply as well.

This year, Qingdao will continue to develop new forms and models of foreign trade, and the city's trade of cross-border e-commerce is expected to exceed 80 billion yuan ($11.8 billion).

Efforts will be made to upgrade local trading platforms, and 1,000 new trading enterprises will be established.

The city will support Qingdao Port in strengthening its ability to handle meat, parallel vehicles, and imported fruits to expand the import of quality consumer goods.

It will promote coordinated development of aviation, trade and finance, and work with transportation and finance departments to attract more shipping service enterprises to settle in the city.

It will strengthen cooperation with financial institutions and banks as well as with comprehensive foreign trade service platforms along the Yellow River Basin.

Efforts will also be made to expand trade in services, increase the scale and quality of foreign investment, and deepen overseas investment cooperation.

(chinadaily.com.cn)

Qingdao draws support from global talent and plans for advancing "six orientations" in its urban construction

Michael Shawn is making a speech.

Last year, Qingdao put forward "six orientations" in its urban construction, namely building a pioneering city in modern industry, a leading modern marine city, an international innovation-driven city, an international gateway hub, a high-quality bay city suitable for living, working and travelling and a demonstration city in modern governance. The office of Qingdao International City Strategy Promotion Committee recently asked the experts of the advisory committee to discuss and exchange mutual opinions on advancing the above "six orientations".

16 experts from political, business and academic circles, including Long Yongtu, former Chinese vice minister of commerce, chief negotiator for China's resumption of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) contracting party status and its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and chairman of the Expert Advisory Committee for Qingdao International City Strategies, Chen Qingquan, member of both the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK, founder and rotating chairman of the World Electric Vehicle Association, Hirano Masayuki, Marubeni Corporation's deputy chief representative in China, Michael Shawn, senior adviser to the Bank of England and the United Nations Development Program and former co-chairman of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, Qingdao-based consuls general of Thailand, Japan and South Korea, brought forward their opinions based on their own expertise from international perspectives, and made proposals for Qingdao to advance the campaign of fulfilling satisfactorily the "six orientations" in urban construction.

Organizing the discussions among the experts is a concrete action that Qingdao took to draw support from global talent and to pursue innovative ideas. In addition to broadening its horizon, Qingdao introduced to the outside world value connotations of the "six orientations" in urban construction and achieved benign interactions.

(Liu Lanxing)

Qingdao saw 262,500 newly-registered market entities in 2022

According to Qingdao Administration for Market Regulation, Qingdao saw 262,500 newly-registered market entities in 2022, 99.17% of which were private businesses. As of the end of 2022, Qingdao boasted over 2.05 million market entities, increasing by 4.7% year on year.

Among the newly-registered market entities, there were 106,526 enterprises, accounting for 40.57%, and 155,407 individual industrial and commercial households, occupying 59.19%. Structurally, the tertiary industry saw the highest proportion and occupied 86.32% followed the secondary industry that accounted for 11.87%. Notably, privately-run businesses occupied 99.17% of the increment in market entities.

Since the beginning of last year, Qingdao has given play to the role of private economy in stabilizing growth and taken action to boost its private businesses.

(Wu Shuai)

Manufacturing shop of Cotte, a famous private business in Qingdao. **By Wang Tao**

Qingdao "Guoxin-1" evolves into Chinese "fishery aircraft carrier"

Cruise type aquaculture of "Guoxin-1".

As the world's first 100,000-tonne smart aquaculture vessel, Qingdao "Guoxin-1" set sail from Qingdao Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., China State Shipbuilding Corporation in January 2022 and had ushered in a new era for Chinese marine cultivation and fishing. Within one year, the innovation team of the "Guoxin-1" deep and far sea aquaculture vessel has managed to make breakthroughs in the top six key technologies, namely shipborne cultivation, water exchange, pitching reduction and swing control, vibration damping and noise reduction, trash cleaning and corrosion prevention and intelligent centralized control, thereby opening up a new track in fishery production and building a Chinese "fishery aircraft carrier".

Currently, the "Guoxin-1" can annually supply 3,700 tons high-quality fishes. The closed and cruise type aquaculture hull, which was initiated by the vessel, has never been seen in the world before. The project has cumulatively scored over 60 technological achievements and applied for around 40 patent protections, including one international patent, and obtained over 10 authorizations. Operating the "Guoxin-1" has facilitated the development of not only the most pertinent industries like seedling, cultivation, feedstuff, health, processing and sales, but also the support industries like shipbuilding and aquaculture equipment manufacturing, intelligent fishery equipment and ocean logistics.

Reportedly, Qingdao Guoxin Group plans to build and operate 50 aquaculture vessels in an attempt to shape another China's "name card" next to high-speed trains.

(Wang Wei)

Youths in Qingdao is becoming increasingly innovative

The promotional video on Qingdao as a youth development-friendly city was recently unveiled. With the theme of "Island of Vigorous Youth, City Friendly to Youth", the video highlights the campaign of building a youth-friendly city in ten aspects,, which is included in the "six orientations" in Qingdao's urban construction, and thoroughly showcases the youthful charm of Qingdao as a socialist modern international city in the new era.

Qingdao is building a leading Chinese youth development-friendly city. The strategy of "strengthening Qingdao with talent" has made it smooth to introduce and gather talent and enabled the youth to see tangible happiness. In the meanwhile, the youth in the city is becoming increasingly innovative; Qingdao has ranked running among the top ten innovation-driven Chinese cities, boasted as many as 51 provincial level key labs as well as 257,000 talented people of all kinds introduced by its new and high-tech enterprises. Qingdao is making an all-out effort to build Shandong province's first "park friendly to young talent" and will continue to set up afterwards 20 youth-featured blocks and 20 industrial parks friendly to youths, in a bid to offer one-stop services for youth innovation and entrepreneurship.

(Yang Qiqi)

Each art exhibition Qingdao held in 2022 has its own charm

Citizens visit the Watercolor Makes the City More Wonderful-First Qingdao China Contemporary Watercolor Invitational Exhibition. **By Wang Lei**

In 2022, art exhibitions in Qingdao were held via both online and offline channels, which enabled the public to admire splendid arts anywhere.

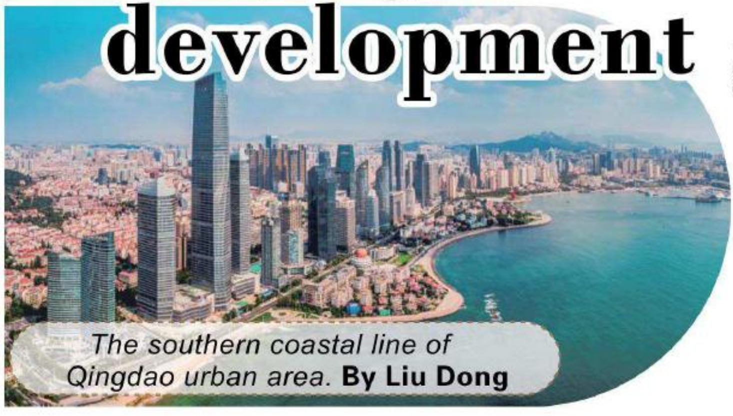
The Qingdao International Glass Medium Art Exhibition, independently planned and held by the Qingdao Art Museum, was China's first such event approved by the Organizing Committee of International Year of Glass. Nearly 200 sets of contemporary glass works created by 120 artists from 14 countries were displayed. Furthermore, the Qingdao Art Museum held four events, respectively themed with "Sound of Spring, Children's Poem Recitation", "Music in Qingdao, Summer Music Season", "Paint the Prime Period of Autumn, Encounter Closely Qingdao Art Museum" and "Winter Pleasure, Key of e in Qingdao Art Museum", in a bid to integrate art exhibitions with music and recitation.

None of the exhibitions held in the 330m-high Qingdao Haitian View & Art, such as "Material Thinking-1st International Contemporary Material Art Biennale" and "Beauty in the Crafts-Exhibition of China Arts & Crafts From Collection", haven't presented pioneering explorations of artists at home and abroad. The "Rising City-Large Visual Literature Exhibition" presented Qingdao's course of urban development from 1891 to 2021 and was of enormous value in literature and memory.

The "Qingdao 2022-China Contemporary Dynamic Sculpture (Installation) Invitational Exhibition", hosted by the Qingdao Sculpture Museum, showcased the most sophisticated works and became the most cutting-edge and academic contemporary art exhibition. About ten exhibitions hosted by the Qingdao Publishing Art Museum, including the "Offline Exhibition of First Qingdao Picture Book Creation Contest" and the "Linkage-China-Europe International Youth Artists Exchange Invitation", have offered visitors diversified platforms to appreciate artworks.

A few watercolor exhibitions, including the Watercolor Makes the City More Wonderful-First Qingdao China Contemporary Watercolor Invitational Exhibition, the Eighth "Watercolor Laoshan Mountain" Qingdao Contemporary Watercolor Art Exhibition and the 2022 China (Qingdao) International Watercolor Art Season Annual Exhibition, were collectively held at the end of 2022. Over 570 works of watercolor artists from 30 Chinese municipalities and provinces attended the first exhibition. To extend the exhibition, 25 famous watercolor artists from Qingdao co-painted a 20m-long scroll, which was created with exquisite art skills and vividly depicted a unique picture of Qingdao integrating mountains, seas and the city. *(Cui Yan)*

Qingdao sets ambitious development goals for 2023


The southern coastal line of Qingdao urban area. **By Liu Dong**

CHINA
Political Map

The eastern coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong province, has set its economic and social development goals for 2023, according to the government work report released at the second session of the 17th Qingdao Municipal People's Congress, which ended on Jan 1.

Next year is the starting point for fully implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and is also a starting point for Shandong to build itself into a green, low-carbon and high-quality development pilot province in China.

The government work report said that in 2023 Qingdao will continue to focus on its real economy development and on attracting investment, promoting urban renewal and construction, and improving the work style of officials. More efforts will be made to replace old growth drivers with new ones and advance the city's high-quality development.

In 2023, the local government will work harder to tap the potential of domestic demand, strengthen industrial strength, energize the economy, increase the driving force for transformation, and strengthen its ability to ensure people's wellbeing.

The city will devote greater energy to enhancing urban functions and core competitiveness and steadily improving the capacity and level of governance of modern socialist international metropolises.

According to the municipal government work report, Qingdao will continue to deepen supply-side structural reform to tap the potential of expanded domestic demand.

The city will speed up efforts to implement a package of stimulus measures such as boosting the sales of big-ticket items like automobiles and home appliances to further unleash consumption potential.

Qingdao will introduce a modern industrial system with international competitiveness, strengthen its foundation for the development of the real economy, and build itself into a pioneer city for modern industries.

(chinadaily.com.cn)

SCO international hub port conferred the international port code

According to the Jiaozhou Logistics Work Promotion Service Centre, the SCO international hub port in the SCO Demonstration Zone has been conferred by the UN the international port code "CNJZH", marking the ownership of the "identity card" for involving in international trade.

Reportedly, the SCO international hub port has been included in the international trade and transportation system and qualified for the port of departure or the destination port in international transportation. Goods can be shipped from foreign countries or regions to the SCO international hub port as per instructions on the B/L and directly make declarations in the port. Such moves will not only greatly streamline the process of international trade and help enterprises reduce costs and enhance efficiency, but also contribute to gathering such high-end services as shipping insurance and financial agency and improve the modern service sector in the SCO Demonstration Zone.

(Xi Fuchun)

Qingdao Original Music event becomes a celebrated music IP in China

The competition site of the 2022 Qingdao Original Music event. **By Wang Lei**

Attracting the sign-up of over 500 works as well as 25 million votes through online exhibition shows and voting, and setting up a RMB1.2mln fund dedicated to assisting original musicians in pursuing their dreams, the 2022 Qingdao Original Music support program has experience seven months-long mass-election and competition and seen the finals held last month. Notably, the contest has become a bellwether of Chinese urban music contests as its participating teams, stages and core values were comprehensively upgraded this year.

From 2019 till now, the Qingdao Original Music support program has lasted for four consecutive years. From pure singing while playing music instruments to fabulous stage designs and from fixed music styles to music bands like a hundred flowers in bloom, it has been transformed into a music IP with a distinctive art style. Notably, with the joint promotion of 36 urban radio stations in the original music alliance of Chinese urban radio stations, the event has reached a larger number of fans in 2022.

Since its inception in 2022, the Qingdao Original Music support program has attracted the participation of original musicians from across China. The event initially aimed to support the music industry and to revitalize Qingdao's nighttime economy, but now it also looks to enhance the influence of Qingdao, extend the music industry chain and involve in every aspect of Qingdao's music industry. Covering singers, copyright platforms, blockchain technology, Livehouse performance and music entertainment programs, the Qingdao Original Music event not only offers far more than a stage, but also exports music values and growth modes. In a manner of speaking, music is remarkably different as the event is held every year.

The jury thinks that the original music support program, which combines the glorious youth with hardcore technology, is compatible with Qingdao, a modern international city. The event of this year integrated "blockchain + music". The blockchain technology has realized the real-name voting system that makes the process of voting genuine, transparent and traceable. Furthermore, original musicians and bands can confirm the ownership of original works and stand a chance of have their entries produced and released in the form of "digital music collections", thereby protecting music copyrights and establishing the industrial channel to run original music.

(Mi Jingyu)

Qingdao-born writers scored remarkable achievements in 2022

Literature in Qingdao in 2022 seemed to be as fascinating as Zhanqiao Pier. **By Liu Dong**

Qingdao-born writers have scored remarkable achievements in creation in 2022. Kaoshan created by Tie Liu, which falls into long-length reportage literature, and Lenghu Shang De Yongbao (Hug along a Cold Lake), a work of children literature written by Yu Xiaotian secured the national supreme award. Additionally, Luori Ye Huihuang (Sunset is Also Glorious), an anthology of prose poems created by Geng Linmang and Jiezi Kezhan (Jiezi Inn) were shortlisted for the eighth Lu Xun Literature Award.

Comprehensively speaking, Qingdao's literature in 2022 have seen the keen determination to pursue innovation in text experiment, an endless stream of outstanding works of different categories including mystery novels, network literature and sci-fi literature, and a number of great works on ocean, thus leading to a unique style of literature.

Ni Shi Wo De Kuangxiangqu (You Are My Rhapsody), Xueshan Dadi (Snowy Mountain and the Earth) and Zuihou De Nongmingong (The Last Migrant Workers) constitute Yang Zhijun's trilogy on idealism. The first book takes music as the point of departure, focuses on the history and the status quo of Qingdao's industry and abounds with Qingdao elements including music, youth and the ocean. Sheng Wenqiang's books on the ocean are distinctive, including Xie Lue-Jin Zhu Jin Yi (An Encyclopedia of Crabs), a book dedicated to crabs as well as Haiguai Jianshi (History of Sea Monsters), an imaginative book on mystery.

Literature creation in Qingdao in 2022 ranged from non-fictional works, novels to poems and saw an endless stream of significant works. Among them are Ren Yu Hai (Mankind and the Sea) and Chaoyong Xihaian (Tidal Bore on the West Coast) by Xu Chen, Gaodu by Tie Liu, Qiu Suo (Seeking) by Lu Rong, Huanghe Anbian De Shandong Shouzao (Shandong Handicrafts along the Yellow River) by Duo Latu and Pang Chunjie, Shanhai Zuozheng (Testimony of Mountains and Seas) and Jinianbei (Monument) by Zheng Rui, Feichang Ai (Very Love) by Dong Zi, Chaoxi (Tide) by A Zhan, Wei Guo Zheng (Fight for the Country) by Yu Geng, Ruguo Heliu Hui Shuohua (If the River Can Talk) by Ying Zi, Haibian Fangzhichang (A Textile Mill by the Sea) by Zhang Yi, Qiuyue Gaogao Zhao Changcheng (The Great Wall under the Autumn Moon) by Liu Yaohui, Jiu Tian (The Ninth Heaven) by Yu Xiaotian, Cunzhuang Biji (Notes in Villages) by Li Linfang and Cheng Hun Ji (Get Married) by Lian Jian, the history of family love that is composed of five medium-length novels. Sanjiangyuan De Tashi Delek (Tashi Delek of Sanjiangyuan), a children novel written by Yang Zhijun, involves as many as 30 kinds of wild animals.

In regard to network literature and sci-fi literature, Wang Yibo, a student of class 2020 from Qingdao Film Academy clinched the first prize of the first National Kunpeng Science Literature Award with his long-length novel entitled Shibei (Stone Tablet). Additionally, Xinghai Qianxi (Migration among Planets), a new book of Zhang Jing, a female Qingdao sci-fi literature writer aged 84, adds more originality to sci-fi literature. "Sanjie Dashi", whose works sell terrifically well, and "August Chang'an" are both Qingdao's leading figures in network literature. Xiao Ge Lao by Sanjie Dashi, which went online in 2019 and ended in 2022, and totaled 4.99 million characters, has once topped the historic list of viewership.

(Xiao Mi)

Shandong province' s first RCEP certificate of origin for goods to Indonesia issued in Qingdao

In the RCEP Shandong Enterprises Service Centre, Qingdao Customs issues Shandong province's first RCEP certificate of origin for goods to Indonesia.

On January 2, the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) officially became effective for Indonesia. As soon as it was after zero hour, Sun Junzhi, general manager of Qingdao Sanmu Aquatic Products Co., Ltd., obtained Shandong province's first RCEP certificate of origin for goods to Indonesia in the RCEP Shandong Enterprises Service Centre in Shibei District, Qingdao. With the certificate of origin, the batch of frozen salmons that the company has exported to Indonesia is entitled to zero duty instead of paying 10% import duties.

"The batch of frozen salmons is valued at RMB1.053mln. With the RCEP certificate of origin issued by the Qingdao customs, the goods will be entitled to a deduction of over 100,000 RMB in clearance duties in Indonesia." According to Sun Junzhi, it is definitely cheering news that the aquatic products processing industry with modest profitability can enjoy such an enormous concession of tariff.

ASEAN is Shandong province's largest trading market and Indonesia is the largest export destination where goods from Shandong province can enjoy favorable treatment in ASEAN. According to certain data, in the first eleven months of 2022, imports from Shandong province to Indonesia amounted to as much as RMB39.01bln, increasing by 29.3% year on year. *(Yu Ruixin)*

Catering sector bounces back

Hustle and bustle have returned to streets across China as the Spring Festival comes around the corner, with many catering businesses taking various measures to stimulate consumption.

Wuhan, the provincial capital of Hubei in central China, which was seriously hit by the epidemic in 2020, has seen busy traffic again and diners consuming steaming meals in restaurants.

On the Shuita Street, an old gourmet spot in Wuhan, many businesses closed their doors due to the serious epidemic situation in December. But now, the busy street has come back to life.

"Our business is picking up gradually. Conservatively speaking, we can sell more than 1,000 grilled chicken legs a day," said Xu Defu, a merchant on the street.

In Changsha, the provincial capital of Hunan in central China, also a city famous for various specialty food, eatery outlet owners have launched consumption festivals and offered special discounts to promote consumption.

In a consumption festival launched on Dec 23, Changsha has issued 80,000 food and beverage vouchers through online platforms to attract more diners.

Measures have proved working well as customer attendance rate of popular restaurants in the city has rebounded to more than 90 percent.

Foshan in south China's Guangdong Province, just as other cities across the country, has seen the Chinese New Year's Eve dinners, also known as "reunion dinners," become a hot commodity recently.

A restaurant in Foshan has been flooded with calls to make reservations for the reunion dinners. People usually book the reunion dinners two weeks or even one month ahead of the Chinese New Year's Eve, which falls on Jan 21 this year.

"The reunion dinners have almost sold out. Approximately 90 percent of the dinner tables on the New Year's Eve have been booked," said Zhang Jie, manager of the restaurant.

In Shaoxing of east China's Zhejiang Province, many restaurants offer delivery service to those who booked their reunion dinners.

Data show that in the past week, the food and beverage merchants offering reunion dinners on online platforms increased by 107 percent week on week, and the orders for reunion dinners increased by 210 percent.

Number of registered motor vehicles in China hits record high in 2022

The number of registered motor vehicles (including motorbikes) in China hit a record high of 417 million in 2022, an increase of 5.56 percent over the figure of 395 million in 2021, with the number of automobiles alone reaching 319 million, according to data released by the Ministry of Public Security on Wednesday.

The data also showed that in each of 84 major cities in China, the number of registered automobiles was higher than 1 million, and in each of the mega cities such as Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing and Shanghai, the number exceeded 5 million in the past year.

Meanwhile, by the end of 2022, the number of registered new energy vehicles (NEVs) in China had reached 13.1 million, accounting for 4.1 percent of the total number of automobiles. In 2022 alone, the number of newly registered NEVs rose to a whopping 5.35 million, or 23.05 percent of the total number of newly registered automobiles.

In addition, a total of 30.27 million used motor vehicles were traded across the country by the end of 2022, the data showed.

The data also indicated a boom in used car transactions. In the past five years, the ratio of used car registration to new car registration has increased from 0.77 to 1.24, which means the number of newly traded used cars were more than the number of new cars registered in the five-year period.

In 2022, the country introduced a series of measures to facilitate used car trading such as separating registration and issuance of temporary license plates as well as promoting online service windows for used car registration.

Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2023 to be held in late March

The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) will have this year's annual conference in late March offline in the province of Hainan, according to officials at a Wednesday press conference in Beijing.

Leaders of countries, governments and international organizations, enterprise representatives, scholars and media professionals will be invited to discuss the development of Asia and the world in the post-pandemic period and their interests so as to promote international cooperation.

"The world is now standing at a new crossroad, facing bigger challenges and more difficulties. The international community now has a louder call for stability and development," said Li Baodong, secretary-general of Boao Forum for Asia.

"Against such backdrops, the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2023 will continue to highlight frontier issues of Asia and the world and strive to build consensus of different countries on post-pandemic global economic recovery, push for solidarity, cooperation and policy coordination of the international community, and jointly face the challenges and promote development as a whole," he said.

Li added that aside from the annual conference, the forum will continue to host a series of important activities. This year, the second Global Economic Development and Security Forum, the first Global Tourism Forum and other forums will also be held.

The attendees will also deliver new scientific innovation reports on issues such as global efforts countering climate change, carbon neutrality goals, and high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA
Boao Forum for Asia
Press Conference
博鳌亚洲论坛新闻发布会
2023.1.11

Growing number of tourists boost nighttime economy

People across China are spending their nights out to seek joy and leisure ahead of the traditional Spring Festival, leading to a boost to the nighttime economy.

Sanya City, a tourist hot spot in south China's Hainan Province, is seeing a growing number of tourists. Tourists from all over the country can enjoy the sunny beaches during the day and experience the food and comfort of the island at night.

"I had seafood, barbecue, and some specialties from Hainan such as coconut jelly and fruit. It is indeed very bustling here," said a tourist from northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

In order to handle the upcoming passenger flow peak, the night market runners in Sanya are planning to expand the business area and the number of tables. At present, the number of visitors at many night markets in Sanya have returned to the level before the epidemic.

Apart from the night market and delicious food, people visiting Hainan can also indulge themselves in firework shows and mermaid performances staged at an ocean park in Lingshui Li Autonomous County.

The ocean park holds more than 30,000 various aquatic creatures, and the mermaid performance recently staged at night has attracted many tourists.

"We came here late in the day, so that the kids could enjoy the ocean park, and have a good experience watching the fireworks show," said a tourist.

Liu Xiao'ou, chairman of the ocean park, said as the Spring Festival approaches, the number of visitors has increased by 10 percent each day. In order to seize the opportunity, they have held nine night performances in the past 17 days.

"The weather is comfortable at night, and the price is slightly discounted. Our night show has almost the same number of visitors as the daytime projects. The night is especially suitable for lights, fireworks, drones and the traditional molten iron throwing show. We have prepared colorful night performances for the Spring Festival," said Liu.

The Xi'an Datangsong Everbright City, a scenic area in Taiai City, east China's Shandong Province, has also seen a growing number of visitors ahead of the Spring Festival.

The scenic area provides tourists with colorful projects including night tours, folklore performances, food and interactive activities. Through sound and light technology, it creates an old city that can be seen and smelled, with a lively atmosphere.

Editor: Yang Xing; Designer: Qin Wen

Carry forward and inherit Chinese tea culture, reshape the influence of the "world tea port"

First China Tea Trade Fair held in Fuzhou

[Fuzhou Evening News] The first China Tea Trade Fair was held in the Fuzhou Strait International Convention and Exhibition Center from December 30, 2022 to January 1, 2023. As a trade platform for original Chinese teas of all kinds and with the theme of "Coordinate Efforts to Develop Tea Culture, Industry and Science and technology, Promote Development with Commerce and Trade Cooperation", the fair aimed to boost exchanges on China's tea trade, increase the recognition of Chinese tea brands, carry forward and inherit Chinese tea culture through holding many activities and employing an innovative operation mode.

The exhibition has embraced original tea of all kinds, reprocessed tea, deep-processed tea products and derivatives, tea packaging, tea sets, tea wares, tea dress, tea-related equipment and planting techniques. The entire tea industrial chain has been showcased, covering all the upper, middle and downstream products.

In the fair, efforts have been ramped up to highlight many kinds of famous tea at home and abroad, including Fuzhou Jasmine Tea and present tea culture, industry and science and technology as a whole. With online and offline interaction, Fuzhou intends to build up a "never-ending" tea trade platform featuring high standards, excellent quality, all-weather adaptation and multiple scenarios, achieve 1+1>2 exhibition effectiveness and improve industrial benefits. Moreover, Fuzhou will strive to make the tea trade fair as famous as the China International Tea Expo held in Hangzhou every spring, resulting in a new landscape of Chinese tea exhibitions, namely "Hangzhou Tea Expo in Spring, Fuzhou Tea Trade Fair in Autumn".

(Chen Muyi)

中国茶叶交易会
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首届中国茶叶交易会开幕式
暨中国茶产销升级发展高峰论坛
夏泽翰
Prof. Shahbaz Khan
联合国教科文组织驻华代表

The opening ceremony of the first China Tea Trade Fair.

First Fujian Fu Culture Carnival concludes

China's first Fu culture-featured block opens at Heart of Minjiang River

油纸伞
新时代 福 享福气

The site of Fu culture carnival. By Yuan Hao

[Fuzhou Evening News] The first Fujian Fu (Blessing) Culture Carnival took place on the Heart of Minjiang River Youth Square from January 6 to January 8. Cultural and creative businesses, inheritors of intangible cultural heritage and artists from across Fujian province joined hands to offer a cultural feast to citizens and tourists along Minjiang River.

There were different functional zones, including theatrical performance, flash mob on Fu culture, hall of lantern riddles, open air cinema, delicious food market, fair of creative intangible cultural heritage, wish making and internet-famous sites. Citizens and tourists were able to appreciate cultures and try to enjoy the Fujian lifestyle together.

On the main stage, top theatres in Fujian put on many classical operas. The Fu culture-themed recitation with music entitled Fu performed by Fujian Song and Dance Theatre, the rhyme on Fu played by Qingci Band in the form of new folk music and the Han Chinese costume show together presented the distinctive Chinese fashion trend.

Fu culture-themed cross-talks, talk shows, song and dance performances were staged. In addition, hip-pop performed by local musicians in Fujian province, playing folk songs and trendy street dance were put on. The collision of popular tends and traditional culture is exclusive to the "Fu STYLE" of Fujian province.

With the theme of "Fudi Fuxin, Shiqi Weilai" (Invigorate the Blessed Place, Embrace the Future), China's first Fu culture-featured block opened to the public on January 6. Located at the central axis of Fuzhou's history and culture, the block echoes the Heart of Minjiang River core economic belt and is adjacent to the Shangxiahang and Cangxia historic culture blocks. Covering a total area of 124 Mu, the block boasts three themed squares, namely "Wanfu", "Wufu" and "Jufu" and consists of a total of 34 old-age houses.

(Zhao Zhengyan)

Sanbao City, a new landmark in Fuzhou, begins construction

Business prosperity to reappear in the Nangong Hekou neighborhood

[Fuzhou Evening News] The notable Fuzhou Sanbao City has recently begun construction. Fuzhou Sanbao City is located to the west of Jin'an River, to the north of Xingang Street and neighbors Guohuo East Road and Liuyi Middle Road. The project is an important move to carry forward traditional culture of Fuzhou and increase the international recognition of Fuzhou culture, and vital to accelerating the pace of building Fuzhou into a modern international city.

The Nangong Hekou featured historical and cultural block in the planned area of Fuzhou Sanbao City has integrated the surrounding institutions of Fuzhou intangible cultural heritage including Fuzhou Carving Arts & Crafts General Factory, specialty Arts and Crafts City and Shoushan Stone Exchange Association, as well as historical buildings under protection like the complex of historical buildings in Fuzhou South Park and Rouyuan Station. Fuzhou aims to build the cultural block into an important platform of showcasing the unique charm of Fuzhou culture, which combines crafts production, product transaction, exhibition, online auction, studios of craft masters.

Furthermore, the Nangong Hekou featured historical and cultural block, which is famous for its traditional old-age houses, will make the most of river lanes and blocks to integrate featured commerce and trade, cultural tourism and external exchanges, restore the ancient scenes of living along the river and reproduce the prosperity like what the painting Along the River during the Tomb-sweeping Festival described over one thousand years ago.

Fuzhou Sanbao City will erect a 200m-high landmark building featuring "Fucuo surrounded by mountains and waters", which will advance and retreat in different directions floor by floor, and aim to forge an excellent vision and experience of sightseeing with the aid of greenscapes.

(Chen Jian)

China-Indonesia "Two Countries Twin Parks" to develop prefabricated food industry

Nine governmental departments in Fujian Province, including the Fujian Department of Commerce, jointly published the Measures on Speeding up High-quality Development of Prefabricated Food Industry in November 2022. According to the Measures, Fuzhou will prioritize supporting the construction of Zhongke Jingwei Prefabricated Food Production and Research City in the Fuzhou Yuanhong Investment Zone and building Fujian province's first prefabricated food industry park and the demonstration prefabricated food industry park in China-Indonesia "Two Countries Twin Parks", supporting the construction of Paul (Yuanhong) International Big Health Food Industry Park and building a processing base for prefabricated food. The production and research city will invite domestic and overseas experts on prefabricated food to set up the institute of prefabricated food innovation, which aims to inherit traditional Fujian cuisine and other famous Chinese dishes, make innovations accordingly and develop prefabricated food that can achieve standardized mass production.

To provide better auxiliary facilities, the production and research city will set up three platforms on prefabricated food, namely strategic emergency reserve center, testing and certification center and distribution center. Apart from the production and research city, other prefabricated food industry channels that target overseas markets are also under construction. The virtual "Indonesia National Pavilion" on JD APP, in which the JD Yuanhong Global Food Digital Economic and Industrial Center, has entered trial operation. The bricks-and-mortar "China-Indonesia National Pavilion", located in the Yuanhong park, is engaged in attracting investment and business. The Fujian cuisine pavilion, Indonesia pavilion and Two Countries Twin Parks pavilion will be set up separately to present worldwide delicacies.

(Qian Jiayi)

World Fuzhou Spring Gala to be broadcast on the Chinese Lunar New Year's Eve

To highlight Fu culture and Fuzhou culture

[Fuzhou Evening News] Guided by the Publicity Department of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, and hosted by the Publicity Bureau of the CPC Fuzhou Municipal Committee, and the World Federation of Fuzhou Associations Ltd., the Jade Rabbit Greeting the New Year and Encountering Happiness-2023 World Fuzhou Spring Festival Gala will be broadcast on the news, film and TV and life channels of Fuzhou Broadcast and Television on the Chinese Lunar New Year's Eve (January 21, 2023), and available on many internet platforms for worldwide Fuzhou compatriots to watch.

Reportedly, the gala, with the theme of "Jade Rabbit Greeting the New Year and Encountering Happiness", showcases the enthusiasm and high morale for building faster Fuzhou into a modern international city, the social and economic achievements Fuzhou has scored, and the charm and attractiveness of Fu Culture and Fuzhou culture through the programs of entertainment that highlight Fu culture and Fuzhou culture.

The gala begins with the program named Jade Rabbit Greeting the New Year and Encountering Happiness. In addition, through stage performances, "video link" and "paying New Year calls online", Fuzhou compatriots and representatives from all walks of life beat the "Fu" drums to awaken the spring and encounter happiness in worldwide distinctive buildings. The members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, sport stars and representatives of overseas Chinese, who were born or are working in Fuzhou, convey their best wishes by different means in the gala.

(Gu Wei)

Wedding of the She ethnic minority, a dance program in the Fuzhou gala. By Zhang Xuyang

Shanghai mayor unveils economic target, highlighting Pudong's growth

Huang Yixuan

SHANGHAI is striving for an economic growth rate of above 5.5 percent this year, Mayor Gong Zheng said on January 11.

Gong unveiled the goal when delivering a government work report at the opening of the annual session of the Shanghai People's Congress.

The city's economy in 2022 surpassed the 4-trillion-yuan (US$590 billion) mark for the second consecutive year, according to the report.

Shanghai's port trade volume, meanwhile, exceeded 10 trillion yuan and saw its share in the world rise to about 3.6 percent, retaining its top position among global cities. And the container throughput of Shanghai Port added up to 47.303 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), ranking first in the world for 13 years in a row, according to the mayor.

To perform well, the city must prioritize stability while pursuing progress, focus on promoting high-quality growth, better coordinate pandemic control and the economic and social development, deepen the reform and opening-up, and vigorously boost market confidence, Gong said.

In 2023, local general budget revenue is expected to rise 5.5 percent from last year, and overall expenditures on research and development will account for around 4.3 percent of the city's GDP, he said.

Meanwhile, the city will try its best to hold the urban jobless rate below 5 percent, Gong said. The city also expects per-capita disposable income to rise in line with economic growth and will contain the consumer price rise at around 3 percent in the new year.

Gong stressed the importance of pushing the development of the Pudong New Area, as well as intensifying national key strategic tasks on all fronts.

Comprehensive-reform pilot projects will be carried out and special measures will be formulated for Pudong to ease market access, enabling the new area to take the lead in establishing an integrated licensing and comprehensive regulatory system.

Shanghai will also add 25 new open innovation centers of large enterprises to create an international advanced technology application center and a leading area for international talent development.

The city is to implement an action plan for the further development of the pilot free trade zone and the new Lingang Special Area and help deepen the institutional innovation of the STAR Market on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, to support the development of more high-quality sci-tech enterprises.

Gong said Shanghai will wrap up the second round of the three-year action plan for the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region as well.

In 2023, Shanghai will focus more on the real economy, especially the three pioneering industries. It will enhance innovation of integrated circuit equipment, materials and design, promote the application of biomedical innovative products, and optimize the independent and controllable software and hardware ecology of artificial intelligence, according to Gong's report.

Four arenas, namely digital economy, green and low-carbon, metaverse and intelligent terminal, are to be vigorously developed as well.

The city will accelerate the building of an international financial asset trading platform, promote more innovation in commodity futures and financial derivatives, and support the establishment of more headquarters-based and functional financial institutions, the mayor said.

More reforms and innovation will be carried out in green finance and fin-tech, and a pilot zone for STAR Market reforms will be set up, he said.

To boost domestic demand and stabilize foreign demand, Gong said, Shanghai will deepen the construction of an international consumer center, with campaigns like the Double Five Shopping Festival.

5.5%

Shanghai has set its 2023 economic development goals, with the city's gross domestic product expected to grow by above 5.5 percent.

ACHIEVEMENTS vs GOALS

Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng delivered the government work report at the opening of the annual session of the Shanghai People's Congress on January 11. Here are the highlights of the work report.

WHAT SHANGHAI HAS ACHIEVED IN PAST 5 YEARS

ECONOMY

GDP exceeded **4 trillion yuan**

Per capita disposal income of the city's residents increased to **79,000 yuan**

Total port trade value exceeded **10 trillion yuan** maintaining top position among all the cities around the world.

BUSINESS

Foreign direct investment (FDI), in actual use, reached **US$103 billion**

The number of regional headquarters of multinational companies hit **891**

The customs clearance time was shortened by more than half. **50%**

ENVIRONMENT

The riverside space along **Huangpu River** and **Suzhou Creek** were connected and opened to the public.

The annual average density of PM2.5 was down to **24 micrograms per cubic meter**

New greenway totaled **1,072 kilometers**

PUBLIC SERVICE

100,000 public charging piles for electric vehicles

26,500 new beds at elderly homes

The number of nursing institutions reached **1,277**

WHAT SHANGHAI WILL DO IN 2023 AND NEXT 5 YEARS

ECONOMY

The city's GDP is expected to increase by **>5.5%** in 2023.

The per capita disposable income of the city's residents will grow in line with the economy.

BUSINESS

In the next five years, the number of regional headquarters of multinational companies will reach **1,200**

The added value of the core sectors in the digital economy will account for 18% of the city's GDP. **18%**

ENVIRONMENT

Shanghai will always remain as one of the world's safest cities.

In the next five years, the number of parks in the city will exceed **1,000**

The green and low-carbon production and life will become a new trend of society.

PUBLIC SERVICE

550,000 new jobs will be created in 2023.

120,000 sqm of old residential houses in downtown areas will be renovated.

MORE IN 2023

- The development of the five "new cities" will be in full swing.
- Construction on Shanghai Museum East Branch and World Skills Museum will be completed.
- The 6th China International Import Expo will be held.
- Sports events such as Shanghai Marathon and Shanghai River Regatta are scheduled.

PANDEMIC CONTROL

- Further optimizes pandemic control and prevention measures
- Reduces severe cases
- Promotes vaccination
- Accelerates R&D commercialization of vaccines and anti-COVID drugs

Graphics by Shen Xinyi/Shanghai Daily

The first group of arrivals from overseas goes through immigration formalities at Shanghai Pudong International Airport. China lifted quarantine requirements as well as on-arrival PCR test for inbound travelers on January 8, ending almost three years of COVID-19 restrictions. — All photos by Jiang Xiaowei

Shanghai greets first international arrivals, with no COVID restrictions

Yang Jian and Lu Feiran

It's the first time in three years that Li Mingyu, a Chinese student studying in New Zealand, got to hug her father, who came all the way from Xuzhou of Jiangsu Province to pick her up at Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

The flight Li took, NZ289, a Boeing 787-9 that landed at Pudong at 6:31am, became the first international flight to Shanghai after China's latest relaxed COVID-19 measures for inbound travelers came into effect on January 8.

"I wanted to buy a flower bouquet but it was too early, so I wrote a welcome sign on a piece of red paper to greet her," said Li's father.

Greeted by airport staff in normal uniforms, passengers from Auckland got off their plane and quickly passed immigration checkpoints.

Welcomed by long-missed family members or friends who came to pick them up, they left the airport terminal buildings directly.

For the first time since April 2020, passengers from abroad no longer encounter quarantine staff in hazmat suits holding throat swabs on landing, or are transported to designated quarantine hotels.

Working in New Zealand, Zhang Meng from north China's Hebei Province said that she hadn't been back home for three years. On hearing that no central quarantine is needed for on-arrival passengers, she booked a flight home immediately.

"I felt so excited that I saved all my annual leave for the reunion with my family. And the entry procedure was very convenient as no on-arrival PCR test was required."

She did a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test before departure as required, and was wearing a mask throughout the journey. "It feels great that things are finally back to normal. It's easier — and will be cheaper — to book flights and I'll be able to see my families and friends more regularly in the future."

Elsewhere, Melissa Hurst from New Zealand felt lucky as she and her family planned their trip to China long before the optimized measures were announced — in March.

They had been prepared for quarantines but breezed through with nearly all the restrictions dropped. Also they only waited for about two weeks for their visa, much faster than they expected.

"It's the first time we have returned to China after the pandemic broke out. We did the COVID test and waited one day (for the result) and nothing else."

As China downgraded the COVID-19 management from Category A to Category B, the limitations for international travel were abolished, bringing a dawn of hope for complete global economic recovery after the pandemic.

Inbound travelers are now only required to take a PCR test 48 hours before departure and can travel to China if the results are negative.

The measures aim to further optimize the international exchanges that had been impeded for nearly three years to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Nationwide, China Southern Airlines' Flight CZ312 from Toronto to Guangzhou became the first international flight to the mainland after the adjustment. The flight landed at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport at 12:16am on January 8.

It was followed by Shenzhen Airlines' Flight ZH9024 from Singapore which landed at the Shenzhen Baoan International Airport at 12:23am.

Shanghai's Pudong airport, which handles over half of the arriving international flights to the mainland, dismantled barriers overnight. They had been used to ensure the "closed-loop" transport of inbound travelers to centralized quarantine sites for the last three years.

The "closed-loop" management means they would have no contact with others until their central and home quarantines were finished.

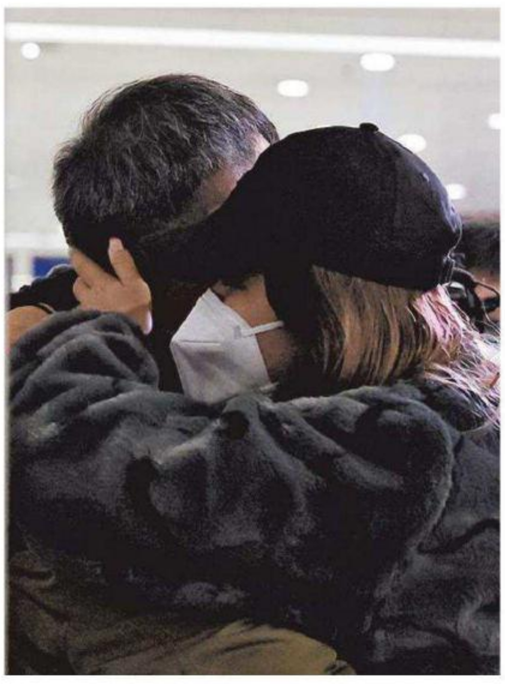
The customs, immigration and airport staff have also taken off their white hazmat suits and facial visors for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The Shanghai Immigration Administration was prepared for the larger passenger flow. "We conducted analysis and research on the growth of passenger volume at the port in advance," said Qiu Bingling, an immigration officer. "We have further optimized the lineup of immigration officers on duty according to the changes in passenger flow."

The change is both a relief and a new challenge for airport officials.

After receiving the last arriving travelers on Saturday night, Peng Chao, a police officer with the Minhang District Public Security Bureau, packed up and disinfected the computers and equipment at the passenger transfer site at the T2 terminal.

"It is finally over, we can officially get off work," said Peng, who was in charge of the closed-loop transport of arriving passengers to Minhang for two and half years.



Li Mingyu (right) hugs her father for the first time in three years when they reunite at Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

"I will say goodbye to my old friend, an electric heater that has accompanied me during the cold winters for the last two years," Peng said. Air-conditioning was not allowed to avoid transmitting the virus.

The arrival and customs clearance procedure are expected to be fully restored to that of 2019 before the COVID-19 outbreak, the airport authority said.

Restaurants, stores and public transport will also be restored along with other services at the arrival section at Pudong airport.

But COVID-19 prevention measures and frequent disinfection will be conducted to prevent cross-infection.

The check-in hall, security checkpoints along with escalators and seats are being disinfected with high frequency. The trolleys will be disinfected by both ultraviolet machines and wiped with disinfectants manually.

The air-conditioning and ventilation have been turned to the high volume modes to bring in fresh air to the terminal buildings.

The removal of quarantine and testing for international travelers coincided with the Spring Festival travel rush that began on January 7 and will run until February 15.

The most difficult and demanding travel peak this year, known as the world's largest human migration, will see more than 2 billion travelers by bus, train, plane and car to reunite with their families for the traditional festival which falls on January 22 this year.

The figure had increased to 70.3 percent of the same period in 2019.

Pudong and Hongqiao international airports are expected to handle 6.5 million passengers with more than 66,000 flights during the peak period.

The flight and passenger volumes at both airports in January will increase by 42 and 46 percent, respectively on month, due to the relaxation of COVID-19 response.

About 1,000 daily flights will take off or land at Pudong airport every day during the travel peak, including many international flights, transporting some 84,000 travelers, officials said.

The area for the transfer of arrivals to central quarantine has been cleared at Shanghai Pudong airport. Immigration officers no longer wear "*dabai*," or hazmat protection suits. All entry procedures are back to normal.

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Football helps girl players gain confidence, live fulfilling life

A group of passionate Chinese girls from different parts of the country and from different professions have joined an amateur football team, where they experience shared happiness and gain a sense of self-worth with their youthful energy and devotion.

At an outdoor football field in Beijing, a fierce competition was underway against the evening chill. The Mianbei Women's Team has been organized by a dozen netizens who love football. The team now includes high school and college students and those who work in various sectors.

Seventeen-year-old He Wenqing is the youngest member of the team. She's a high school student in Beijing and has been playing football for ten years.

According to He, the team offers her a unique opportunity to play with other girls.

"I had always played football with boys until now in here. I have been a pretty good player. I can keep playing in the boys' team and leveling up. I think that's enough to prove myself," she said.

Lin Peirong, 23, comes from Fuzhou City in east China's Fujian Province. She's working at an institution serving people with rare diseases. She said playing football creates a new possibility for her life.

"Actually, I think many girls don't want to play football because they don't really understand the soccer sport, so they would never think that they themselves can also do it. Playing football is a possibility. When you discover a possibility in yourself, you can embrace more possibilities," Lin said. Ji Yang, also in her 20s, is a postgraduate student at Beijing Jiaotong University. Her hometown is the far-flung Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan Province. She once felt lost after moving to the large city. By chance, she joined the football team with her roommate, and changes happened.

"When playing football, Coach Xu often tells me to be confident and give me more opportunities to play in an important position such as forward. In fact, there is a very simple way to have good performance. We only need to gather the most competitive players. The purpose of our team is never to win, but to see everyone's progress," Ji said.

Xu Zhibin, 37, has engaged in football training for more than ten years. Since September last year, he has formed two amateur women's football teams and coached them for free. He said the special experience taught him a lot.

"For me it's an alternative channel that is immeasurably rewarding. It allows me to better feel and understand other people's feeling and have empathy with them, which is growth for me. I used to be a very, very ordinary and shy Chinese boy. The change football has brought me is that I feel I have more energy to influence other people. This is a great change," said the coach.

Former Swiss diplomat rebuilds rainforest in Yunnan

A former Swiss diplomat has dedicated two decades to rebuilding a rainforest in southwest China's Yunnan Province, transforming a rubber plantation into a green paradise boasting 300 tree species.

The adventure started in 2003, when the former Swiss diplomat Gerard Burgermeister, who is also a biologist, ended his tenure at the Swiss Embassy in China and left Beijing.

He has since been committed to improving biodiversity and created a rainforest on his own in Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, a tropical region that borders Laos and Myanmar.

"It was a rubber plantation, so we had only one species of tree exactly the same. Besides that, those trees are not native. That was the purpose: to transform this piece of 'green desert' into a biodiversity hot spot," said Burgermeister.

He started to collect seeds and seedlings of different species from different sources, such as local rainforests, nurseries and homes, and cultivated them with great patience.

"And also using some tricks. For instance, planting tree species that would grow fast, and then have fruits that attract birds and bats. Then the birds and bats would come from outside and bring seeds," said Burgermeister.

His efforts have paid off. He said that his forest now boasts approximately 300 tree species, more than in his own country.

"This is another wild Ficus tree, (Chinese) Rong Shu. We planted this one, so it's still a small baby. It may be 16 or 17 years old. You see, it's already kind of a little monster," said Burgermeister.

And with the exuberant growth of the forest, it has become home to many more animals.

"At the beginning, there were very few insects. Now, during the rainy season, we have a lot of them. In June, we have a lot of fireflies. In the rubber plantation, there are no fireflies because the soil is not good enough. It doesn't let them live," said Burgermeister.

Burgermeister believed the improved ecology is rewarding in multiple ways. He said the secret behind his successful experiment is perseverance and respect for nature, and that the effort of each individual matters.

"Biodiversity is a treasure that we can also use in the future. If we lose it now, we are losing something that is extremely precious even before we understand it, which is really silly," said Burgermeister.

Guangxi holds food festival to promote unique cuisine culture

South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Regions has held a food festival to promote its unique local delicacies, many of which have been listed as the country's intangible cultural heritage.

Held from Dec 30, 2022 to Jan. 2, 2023, the festival consisted of six sub-events featuring food fairs, online shopping and folklore performances aiming to support the region's rural revitalization and poverty alleviation efforts.

The opening ceremony of the festival presented the audience with art performances offering a panorama of Guangxi's cultural history.

The Guangxi intangible cultural heritage market brand "Nali Market" showcased local cultural and creative products and special Lunar New Year's goods based on the characteristic culture of 12 ethnic groups in the region, aiming to create thick festive vibe and promote traditional Chinese culture.

The festival also launched a half-month intangible cultural heritage e-commerce shopping festival during which cultural products, intangible cultural heritage food, intangible cultural heritage handcrafts, and national fashion brands will be promoted and sold on various e-commerce platforms to boost traditional culture and offer more development opportunities for young art creators and inheritors of intangible cultural heritage.

Asian elephant celebrates first birthday with public in Guangzhou

An Asian elephant baby celebrated her first birthday with the public and her mother in south China's Guangzhou City on Sunday.

The elephant, named Weifeng, was born at the end of December in 2021, and is regarded as a princess of the elephant family due to her strong physique.

Under the care of her mother and staff members at the scenic spot, Weifeng has already weighed 442 kg and is expected to be able to live independently in about a year.

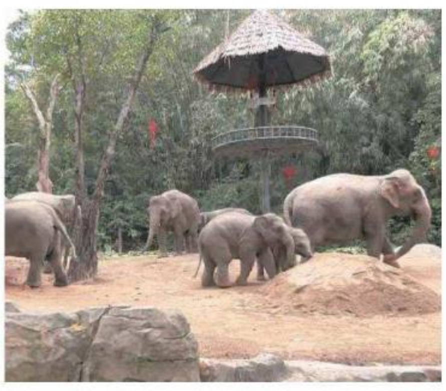
"We supplement elephants with vegetable protein, energy, and plenty of leaves from different varieties. We monitor the elephants, weigh them and give them regular medical check-ups," said a staff member.

The scenic spot also invited many elephant fans to celebrate Weifeng's birthday together, and prepared elephant-themed performances for children.

The scenic spot was decorated with red lanterns to celebrate the upcoming Spring Festival which will fall on Jan 22 this year.

"The atmosphere is lively. People can have fun here, and I think it's great to bring children here, as they can visit elephants and learn knowledge here," said a tourist.

Another tourists said, "We came here last March as our children like knowledge on animals, so we also want to bring them here. We come once a year."



North China's Hukou Waterfall takes on icy look as Yellow River partly freezes over

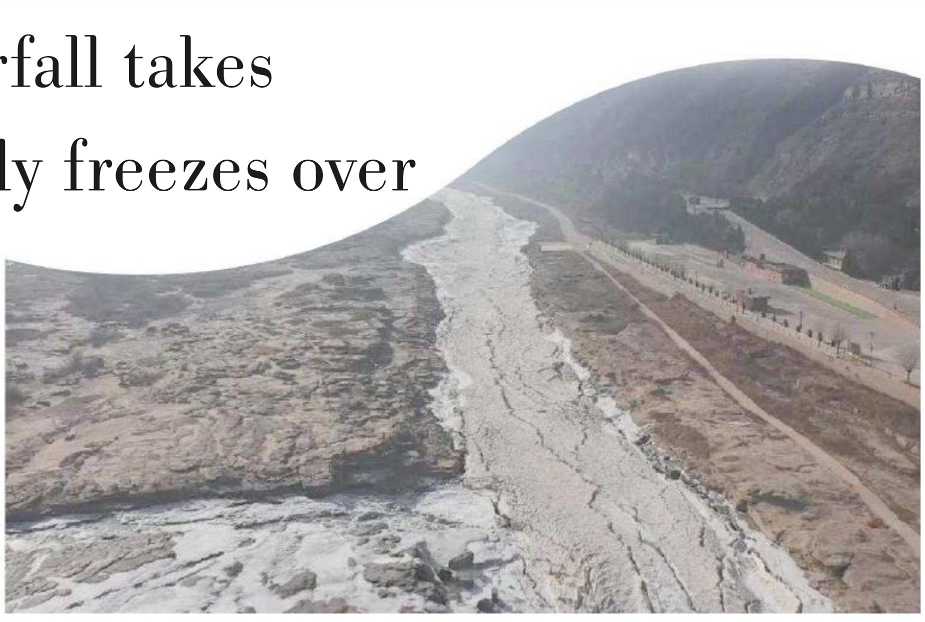
Due to persistent temperature drop, a large amount of ice floes have stuck together in the narrow section of the Shili Longcao (Ten-mile Dragon Trough) waters in the lower reaches of the famous Hukou Waterfall on the Yellow River, creating a spectacular scenery of an icy look.

At present, the section of the frozen Yellow River has reached 4 kilometers in length, and the section is just like a silver dragon winding between the Shanxi-Shaanxi Grand Canyon when being looked from above.

The waterfall still looks as magnificent as ever despite its weakened current.

Many smaller waterfalls have frozen on either side of the river, transforming the location into an icy wonderland.

Located on the border area between Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces, the Hukou Waterfall is the most magnificent waterfall on the Yellow River and the second largest waterfall in China.



The width of the waterfall changes with the season, usually 30 meters wide but increasing to 50 meters during flood season. It has a height of over 20 meters. When the Yellow River approaches the Hukou Mountain, blocked by mountains on both sides, its width is abruptly narrowed down to 20–30 meters. The water's velocity increases, and then plunges over a narrow opening on a cliff, forming a waterfall 15 meters high and 20 meters wide, as if water were pouring down from a huge teapot. Hence it gets the name Hukou (literally, "flask mouth") Waterfall.

Rare snow tiger cubs meet public in east China safari park

A triplet of tiger cubs, including one white Bengal tiger and two rare variant of snow tigers, made their public debut recently in a wildlife park in east China's Jiangsu Province.

The cubs were born on Sept. 30 of 2022, after their mother, a white tiger at the Nantong Forest Safari Park, was naturally conceived.

The white tiger is an albino individual produced by the genetic mutation of the Bengal tiger. It is extremely rare because of its small number.

The snow tiger is a rare variant of the Bengal tiger as a result of further genetic mutation. The probability of occurrence is about one in 100,000.

The three cute little beasts have no name yet, so the safari park has launched a name-collecting campaign on the internet.

Eden's whales live a peaceful life in water of China

An episode of a documentary series known as "Journeys in Nature: Beibu Gulf Series" was released on Thursday by the China Global Television Network (CGTN) to show Eden's whale living a peaceful life in the waters of China.

The Beibu Gulf, located in Southwest China, is an important link between the southwestern regions of the country and the rest of the world. This area boasts not only economic vitality, but also ecological biodiversity.

The first episode, named as Beibu Gulf Series: Sea of Whales, tells stories about Eden's whale, a highly intelligent mammal with distinctive hunting skills, in the gulf.

In the vast ocean, they often hunt in pairs, corralling the fish before enjoying the feast. The giant whale consumes hundreds of kilograms of fish every day, and their hunting prowess has not only sustained themselves but also benefited other animals such as sea gulls.

The Xieyang Island sits in the middle of the Beibu Gulf. Its tranquil shores draw a congregation of seagulls. Using their sharp vision, they scan the sea in search of the ocean's bounty.

Beneath the surface, an Eden's whale generates impressive waves with its breathing. During feeding, its gaping mouth devours huge volumes of water and food. As the water filters through, numerous fish, for a brief moment, are completely exposed to the air.

The gulls see their chance. They flock around the giants to await the precious moments when the behemoth emerges from beneath the waves.

Once the target appears, they swoop down and snatch a huge feast from its mouth.

In the wild, large predator feeding frequently benefits more than just themselves. The whale is not loath to the birds joining the gargantuan meal. But greed can sometimes court deadly danger. One of the gulls has failed to leave the table punctually.

As a subspecies of the Bryde's whale, the Eden's whale is so named in Chinese due to its lesser stature.

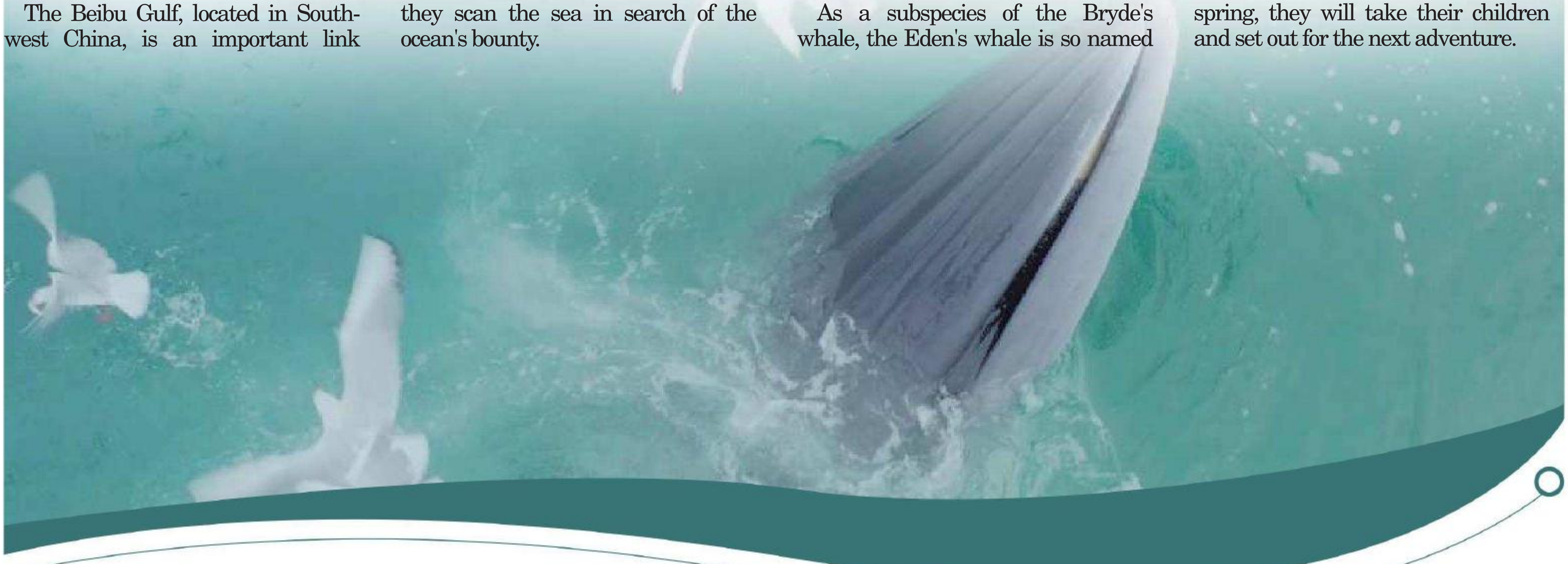
An adult Eden's whale measures more than 15 meters in length and weighs over 20 tonnes. To fuel this gigantic bulk, it consumes hundreds of kilograms of food daily. This highly intelligent mammal has mastered distinctive hunting skills.

In the vast ocean, they often hunt in pairs. They work together to corral the fish so that everyone can feast while expending minimal energy.

Since 2018, with December arrival, these whales travel in families from the East China Sea to the Xieyang Island. It is China's only large whale found in coastal waters.

Abundant fish and pristine waters have drawn the whales to claim their winter home. While enjoying the warmth and bounty, they breed and raise their young.

Next April, with the advent of spring, they will take their children and set out for the next adventure.



Chinese research center helps return Giant pandas to wild

The China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Pandas has been returning more pandas to the wild over the past year, ensuring there is genetic diversity in Chinas wild Giant panda population.

The center, based in southwest China's Sichuan Province, has been researching the reintroduction into the wild of Giant pandas bred in captivity for many years. The researchers have studied key aspects of reintroducing pandas into the wild including how to train captive pandas to survive in the wild, how to successfully release them and how to monitor their progress once they are released.

"We have released 11 Giant pandas to the wild, nine of which survived. Two previously endangered small wild populations have been restored, with one in Shimian Liziping Reserve in Ya'an, and the other in Longxi Hongkou Reserve in Dujiangyan. Through our field monitoring, we found that they live in a good condition in the wild and are well integrated into the wild populations," said Li Desheng, deputy director and chief expert of the center.

In order to enhance the genetic diversity of Chian's Giant pandas and the vitality of their population, the China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Pandas started research in 2016 that observed the outcomes when captive Giant pandas were released to mate with wild pandas.

"By letting the captive pandas mate in the wild, we can better promote the genetic exchange between captive and wild Giant pandas, which will play an important role in restoring the small wild populations in the next step," Li said.

Snow creates magnificent winter wonderlands in parts of China

Icy weather and snow have turned scenic spots in different parts of China, particularly the colder north, into winter wonderlands with stunning landscapes.

Rich in water vapor, the Ergun Wetland in Inner Mongolia has seen trees and bushes cloaked with rime along the valley, forming a dreamy world of ice and snow on the northern land.

Covering a total area of 1.56 million hectares, the wetland boasts magnificent virgin forests, beautiful natural grasslands and a rich biodiversity.

As local authorities have stepped up ecological conservation, the area's forest coverage and vegetation on grassland have reached 38.23 percent and 92.6 percent, respectively.

The Huangshan Mountain, a UNESCO world heritage site in east China's Anhui Province, has been buried in a sea of clouds after days of snowfall, which has left a breathtaking view of the peaks amid mists and rimes glistening on the branches of trees.

Stretching for 1,200 square kilometers, the Huangshan Mountain scenic area is famous for its peculiarly-shaped rocks, cloud-shrouded peaks, unique pines and hot springs.

Another snowfall has created picturesque sceneries at the Bashan Prairie in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. The vast swathes of snow-covered alpine meadow, dotted with the dark green pine and cypress trees, present a spectacular sight resembling a Chinese ink and wash painting.

The Bashan Prairie is located at the junction of Shaanxi in the northwest and Chongqing in the southwest, covering an area of more than 660 hectares, with a maximum altitude of 2,549 meters.

Winter fishing in full swing at traditional inland fishing sites

A centuries-old winter fishing season has arrived once again on the ice-sealed lakes in the frigid northern and north eastern parts of China, with substantial hauls expected.

In Chifeng City of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, fisherfolk have been braving the extreme cold, casting and drawing in a 170-meter long fishing net under ice more than a meter thick ice on Dalai Nur Lake.

Luckily, the haul of about 25,000 kilograms of fish was worthy of the toil. The fishing team plans to keep operation for 20 days with an expected haul of 180,000 kilograms of fish, according to the team head.

In order to protect the ecosystem, Dalai Nur Lake only allows winter fishing with total an amount of less than 200,000 kilograms, according to the local government. Nevertheless, the event has brought in income from other aspects like tourism, as the traditional activity has attracted tourists from across the country coming to watch.

Fishermen on the ice-sealed Maoxing Lake in Daqing City of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province also celebrated a bumper harvest, as their first net cast under the ice hole brought ashore over 100,000 kilograms of fish.

"The first net was packed, and the haul topped 200,000 jin (100,000 kilograms), which is more than the first-net haul in the past year. This year marks another bumper harvest," said Li Yuwen, the head of the fishing team.

The coming atmosphere also affected the tourists.

"I've come to the winter fishing site for the first time this year, and the scene was very impressive. I was delighted to see the fishermen's bumper harvest," said Wang Xiaoli, a tourist.

The local tourism authority also set up ice sculptures with stunning lighting effects, recreational facilities and dining area with characteristic foods including fish from the lake, to provide the tourists with whole-package experience.

Music director promotes Chinese folk music via breakthroughs in composition

Music director of a popular TV program showcasing the history of many of China's cultural relics, is trying to promote folk music by making breakthroughs in composition.

Guan Dazhou, music director of "National Treasure", which has become a smash hit since it debuted in 2017. Coincidentally, the show also helped rekindle people's interest in another cultural gem, China's traditional music.

Set to glitzy lights, dazzling backdrops and priceless relics, the traditional musical instruments meant as mere accompaniment to the show are making a new wave of China Chic fervor.

"I always believe that soundtrack music is difficult to make. It's unlike songs, which can use lyrics and the appeal of human voice to directly convey meanings and emotions. Therefore, visualization is particularly important. For a composer, it's actually very easy to write a melody, because composing is a matter of discipline and skill. But writing something visual depends all on imagination and experience. The same melody could convey quite different meanings and emotions if it's played at different tempos with different instruments. So we may need to take the needs for emotions and scenes into account before we choose the instruments," said Guan.

Guan said the "National Treasure" has given him a coincidental opportunity to write some popular music, but Guan said he will continue to make breakthroughs to promote folk music among the young people.

"However, I always want to make breakthroughs and compose in styles that modern people prefer. I also use trendy elements in folk instrument performance, so the audience can hear diverse melodies and feel the emotions that I want to express - whether it's powerful, beautiful or lovely. And I want to use different instruments to convey all these emotions," said Guan.

"I think these cultural traditions of our nation need to be passed on. Only when young people like them can we really pass them on. We are trying our best to write music that they like," he said.

Chinese top female director calls for more focus on women's perspectives

Renowned director and producer Li Shaohong called on film practitioners to focus more on women's perspectives at Friday's masterclass held at the fourth Hainan Island International Film Festival in the resort city of Sanya in south China's Hainan Province.

Li is considered a member of the Fifth Generation of Chinese cinema-tography, and the country's top female director. Her films have won multiple international awards, including the Silver Bear at the 1995 Berlin International Film Festival.

第四届海南岛国际电影节
MASTERCLASS
大师班
STIVAL

Known for her works from female perspectives, Li shared her own experiences and reflected on the women in her films to ignite the passion of practitioners during the masterclass on Friday.

"Female themes may mean that you use stories of female characters, but the female perspective still has to be related to the gender of the creator. Our generation had a process of awakening. We gradually discovered that there are differences between genders in creating projects, but I found that young directors don't like to mention women's perspectives. They care more about their personal perspectives. Sometimes becoming a director is indeed a relatively difficult profession for women, but I'm not so worried that there will be fewer female directors, because women's willingness to express is getting stronger and stronger," said Li.

The week-long fourth Hainan Island International Film Festival is jointly hosted by the China Media Group and the Hainan provincial government. This year's festival will last till Dec. 25.

The event has selected nearly 30 films from 26 countries for this year's competition in the categories of features, documentaries and shorts.

In addition to the masterclasses,industry forums and public screenings are also being held during the event.

The Hainan Island International Film Festival was first held in 2018.

Shanghai stamp collectors queue up for Year of Rabbit stamps

Stamp collectors in Shanghai waited in long lines outside post offices early in the morning as China Post on Thursday released a set of two special stamps to celebrate the upcoming Chinese zodiac Year of the Rabbit.

This year's stamps were designed by renowned Chinese artist Huang Yongyu. One of the stamps depicts a personified blue rabbit holding a pen in its right hand and a letter in its left hand, symbolizing the drawing of a blueprint for the new year, as "blue rabbit" is pronounced similarly to "blueprint" in Chinese.

The other stamp features three rabbits running in a circle, an auspicious implication for the "circle of life" as well as family reunion and happiness. The background behind the three rabbits bears decorative patterns showcasing the legendary story of "a jade rabbit ramming herbal medicines", which conveys the sincere wishes for prosperity of the country and for the well-being of the people.

In Shanghai's Songjiang District, many residents spent a chilly night outside a local post office in the hopes of bringing the latest collectables back home.

Yan Yijiang, a local resident of Songjiang, expressed his excitement as the first one in the queue to buy the special stamps at the post office at 6:30 on the day.

"I'm glad that I'm the first one to get those stamps. I have bought zodiac stamps every year and have made such purchases several times. I also bought stamps designed by Huang Yongyu before," said Yan.

Post staff have also presented a wealth of stamp products on offer for people queuing up for the New Year's zodiac stamps.

"Zodiac stamps have been issued every year, which are a good collection for us stamp collectors. The stamp design for the Year of the Rabbit is pretty good, and we as stamp collectors are quite excited about it," said Fang Jianyue, another stamp collector.

China will celebrate Lunar New Year, or the traditional Spring Festival, on Jan. 22, to usher in the Year of the Rabbit.

The country has released zodiac stamps annually since 1980, a Year of the Monkey.

The Chinese zodiac cycle contains 12 animals that record years and reflect people's attributes: the rat, the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the sheep, the monkey, the rooster, the dog, and the pig.

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Offline performance industry revives in Beijing

The offline performance has revived in Beijing with the COVID restrictions lifted.

Hard to Find Jing, an experimental theatrical production in Beijing, portrays Beijing Opera apprentices. The play, fusing pop music into traditional Beijing Opera, is a box office hit, while theaters have again become a popular choice for people to spend their weekend.

"Beijing Opera has been regarded as a cultural treasure of China. I have always wanted to produce a piece that reflects the life and inner world of Beijing Opera performers in the current social context. But we need to meet the preferences of today's audiences and innovate our way of performance," said Li Xinyi, director of Hard to Find Jing.

To better reflect the struggles and dilemmas of the characters in the play, the performers are all real-life opera artists rather than professional drama actors.

"In this play, we have to manage stage acting skills and also sing with a real band. I hope this can help the audience and ourselves understand that we opera performers can too innovate and explore new possibilities," said Liu Zhen, producer and actor of Hard to Find Jing.

After their first show on Friday, tickets for all the three days of shows have sold out.

"I major in theater directing, so I'm glad to watch performances like this. Plus, this play is a fusion of many art forms, and that's something I would like to try in the future myself," said one audience member.

"I haven't been to theaters for a long time. I am very much looking forward to this play," said another audience member.

The offline shows were among the hardest hit by the pandemic in the past few years.

"I had only one performance in 2022," said Liu.

Now with social restrictions lifted, so are the hearts of many in this industry.

"We have set very high expectations for 2023. We are all very excited and optimistic that things will go well this year," said Liu.

Liu said he and his troupe are hoping to present at least 100 shows in 2023.

Bamboo weaving masters turn run-down village into tourists attraction

People in Langou, a village in southwest China's Sichuan Province, have boosted their incomes and turned the once run-down area into a tourists attraction through selling bamboo woven products and developing related tourism and culture industries over the past decades.

On Dec. 9, the International Bamboo Industry Fair opened in the village, presenting a vast variety of well-designed handicraft works made of bamboo.

Chen Yunhua is an inheritor of the national intangible cultural heritage "Qingshen bamboo weaving." His dazzling skills in making bamboo products vowed many visitors at the event. Bamboo weaving has a long history in Langou Village. Almost everyone there can use bamboo strips to make baskets and other production and living utensils.

In 1971, Chen led villagers to make fruit plates, bread baskets and other products for a foreign trade order, in exchange for three walking tractors, which made him realize the broad prospects of bamboo weaving industry.

"A truckload of bamboo as a common material is only worth a few thousand yuan (1,000 yuan is about 143 U.S. dollars), but when it is made into furniture and handicrafts, it can increase its value by more than 10 times. And it needs to be integrated with the market so that we can pass down what is left by the ancestors from generation to generation," said Chen.

Today, Chen's bamboo weaving skills have not only been passed down to his family, but also to the society.

"Bamboo weaving is a national intangible cultural heritage. We are cultivating more craftspeople while passing it on. We combine the art of Qingshen bamboo weaving with the practicability to develop more products, so that our Qingshen bamboo weaving better into the life of common people," said Chen Lan, general manager of Yunhua Bamboo Cultural Travel Ltd.

After persistent innovation by bamboo weaving craftsmen, the bamboo weaving industry has completed the transformation from rough to refined. It was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2008.

With the bamboo weaving serving as the pillar industry for local revitalization efforts, Langou has also become the veritable "village of bamboo weaving."

More and more local villagers have gotten involved in enriching their hometown through the Qingshen bamboo weaving skills in recent years. Langou Village now has more than 30 enterprises of bamboo weaving and bamboo culture industry above the designated size, with nearly 2,000 people engaged in the industry and nearly 100 merchants selling bamboo crafts. The annual output value of the bamboo industry in the village reaches 45 million yuan (about 6.44 million U.S. dollars).

"I started making bamboo woven products when I was 15 or 16. Thanks to this skill, my family's life quality has been improved a lot. Now I can earn 50,000 to 60,000 yuan (7,155 to 8,586 U.S. dollars) per year just at home. I'm satisfied with that," said Shao Xiaoling, a bamboo weaving craftsperson.

"As a post-1990s bamboo weaver, I hope to integrate our new thinking into the traditional skills and make Qingshen bamboo weaving have new possibilities with our efforts," said Chen Yi, a bamboo weaving learner.

Langou Village has also elaborately built bamboo-themed landscapes and developed rural tourism to broaden the channels for boosting villagers' incomes.

The then run-down and backward area has now become a beautiful and popular village with spectacular bamboo forests and flocks of admiring tourists.

China's tourism industry welcomes New Year boost

China's tourism industry rang in the New Year with a welcome return of travelers taking advantage of easing COVID-19 response measures to enjoy the three-day mid-winter holiday.

Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong Province received more than 1.23 million visitors over the New Year's weekend, raking in 822 million yuan (about 120 million U.S. dollars) in tourism revenue.

A dazzling firework show lit up the Window of the World Shenzhen theme park, which features 130 replicas of famous tourist sites from around the world, pulling in crowds on a scale not seen since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Nearly 70,000 tourists visited our park in three days, an increase of 30 percent from last year. The nighttime visitors increased by more than 150 percent compared to the same period last year." said Tang Wancai, deputy manager of the park's marketing department.

Tourism industry analysts say the return of travelers in large numbers over the year-end holiday points to a promising year ahead, with Chinese New Year just around the corner.

"Shenzhen's tour package reservations grew rapidly during the New Year holiday. With the epidemic becoming stable and stronger consumer confidence, the tourism market will definitely see a strong recovery in the future based on the New Year's holiday data and the future border reopening." said Liang Xiaolong, deputy general manager of an online travel platform in Shenzhen.

The Confucius Temple in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, was among the tourist sites that saw strong growth in tourist numbers during the holiday.

Night time activities have become more popular in Nanjing, especially with young tourists, and close to three times as many people were out shopping and dining on Saturday night than during the day.

"There has been a steady foot traffic today and yesterday. Restaurants like the Nanjing Impressions and the Pizza Hut behind us had a very high turnover yesterday. Demand has exploded as many people are recovering [from COVID-19]," said Zhang Min, chairman of Jiangsu Nanjing Tourism Company.

Airlines and travel booking platforms also say they are seeing a big surge in flight searches for popular Chinese tourist destinations including Shanghai, Kunming, Sanya and Beijing, after the government announced plans to further ease COVID-19 control measures.

From next week, China will downgrade its management of COVID-19 from a Class A to a Class B infectious disease -- shifting the focus of the response from stemming infection to caring for infected patients and preventing severe cases.

Shining ice sculptures attract global visitors in Harbin

Ice sculptures illuminating with colorful neon lights of the 39th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival are attracting global visitors the provincial capital of Heilongjiang Province in northeast China.

The giant sculptures and installations are made by more than 150,000 cubic meters of ice and snow in a park covering 810,000 square meters.

Among the highlights are an ice tower measuring 43 meters high, a 500-meter ice slide and a 120-meter-high sky wheel in the shape of a snowflake where visitors can have a stunning view of the illuminated park at night.

Famous for its rich ice and snow resources, Harbin put forward three ice and snow-themed parks and a variety of tourism activities for this year's festival which kicked off on Thursday.

Light show and fireworks were also displayed at the opening ceremony of the festival.

"It's my first time in winter Harbin. I have never seen such kind of show before. Actually, it's really fantastic. I think that China is the No.1 in such kind of shows, I mean light shows and ice shows. I am sure that it will be really good for foreigners to come here again," said Alexander Balitskiy, a Russian visitor to the ice and snow festival.

A signature event of Harbin, the annual festival initiated in 1985 has become one of the world's four largest ice and snow festivals, along with Japan's Sapporo Snow Festival, Canada's Quebec Winter Carnival and Norway's Holmenkollen Ski Festival.

Sanya sees flurry of COVID-19 recovered tourists as China eases travel restrictions

As China continues to ease and axe epidemic control measures, many tourists who have recovered from COVID-19 are opting for trips to locations such as the warm Sanya tourist resort in south China's tropical province of Hainan.

The warm and moist weather is soothing for the recently recovered tourists who are also confident about their antibody to protect their health when enjoying the breathtaking coastline.

"The warm weather will help us recover. It is much more hydrated here. I rarely cough after I came to Sanya," said tourist Wang Kele.

Official data shows that during the three-day New Year's Day holiday from Jan. 1 to 3, nearly 170,000 tourists flocked to Sanya by air, up 7 percent on a monthly basis.

The city's tourism demand started to surge after China decided to loosen travel restrictions on Dec. 6 in 2022.

"Data from Ctrip shows in the first hour after the COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed, searches related to Sanya rose 174 percent. I believe that as the pandemic control measures are optimized, the city's tourism sector will gradually recover," said Chen Linan, Public Relations Director of Ctrip, a Chinese online travel company that provides services including accommodation reservation, transportation ticketing, packaged tours and corporate travel management.

The Sanya Tourism Promotion Bureau said tourists who have recovered from COVID-19 are welcome to travel as normal, but urged them to take necessary precautions to prevent possible reinfections.

Many hotels have also advised tourists who feel uncomfortable to quarantine themselves in their hotel rooms.

Silk Road Int'l Film Festival hoped to stimulate cultural tourism

A promotional event focusing on the economy of movie-shooting locations has been held at the 9th Silk Road International Film Festival in Xi'an City in northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Tuesday, injecting new impetus for the development of film and television works and local cultural tourism industry.

Opened on Friday with the theme of "Silk Road for a Connected World, Films in Bright Chang'an," the five-day film festival was co-hosted by China Media Group (CMG) and the provincial governments of Shaanxi and Fujian.

"As the filming location for movies and television works, it must either have national characteristics, cultural characteristics, or product characteristics. At the same time, the place needs to match the content and spirit of our film and television works," said Li Dexin, secretary-general of the scenic area branch of the China Chamber of Tourism.

Representatives from eight national-level tourism filming sites delivered their promotions and showcased the achievements benefited by such economic pattern respectively at the serial event.

For example, Duyun City in southwest China's Guizhou Province adopted and transformed some abandoned factories to build film and television towns reflecting different eras and themes in recent years, boosting local economic development by integrating television, film and tourism.

"In 2021, the number of tourists in our [film and television city] reached more than 600,000. Every year, many film crews go to shoot, which will bring a lot of consumption in catering, accommodation and transportation, greatly stimulating the consumption economy," said Wu Honghui, deputy general manager of a film and television operation management company in Guizhou.

The film feast also held other events including film art night and film visual art exhibition to entertain the visitors. Various scenic areas in the city including the Datang Everbright City and the Xi'an Art Museum, have also been redecorated to fully showcase the vitality brought by the film festival.

"Through the platform of the Silk Road International Film Festival, we hope to build more platforms for various activities where the masses can share the culture, so that everyone can enjoy this cultural feast brought by the the film festival. Also, through such activities, we feel that it can promote the recovery of the city's cultural tourism," said Wang Qinghua, secretary-general of the international film festival's organizing committee.

Initiated in 2014, the Silk Road International Film Festival, carrying forward the spirit and culture of the Silk Road, has provided a major platform for exchanges and cooperation between filmmakers from various countries, and also served as an important carrier for promoting the high-quality development of Chinese films and introducing Chinese culture to wider global audience.

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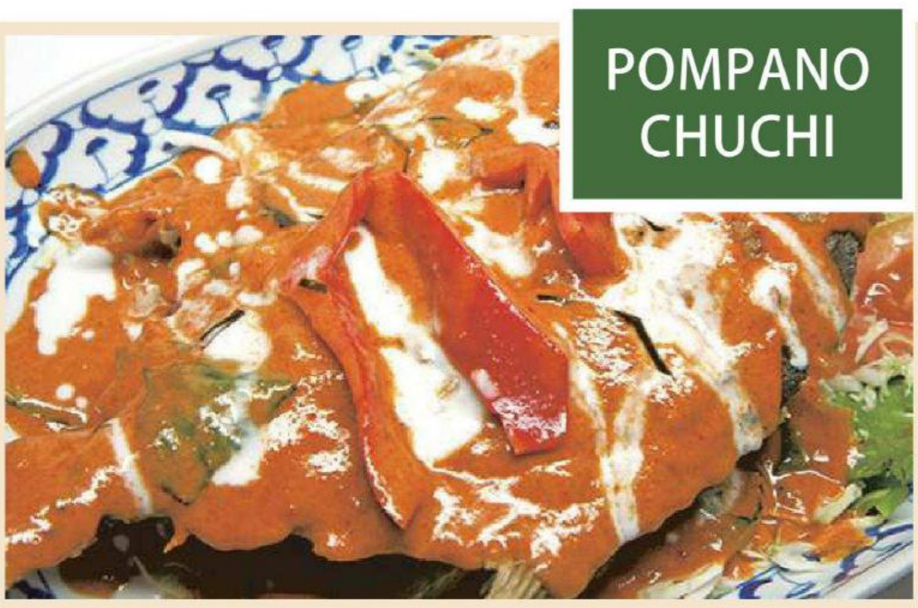

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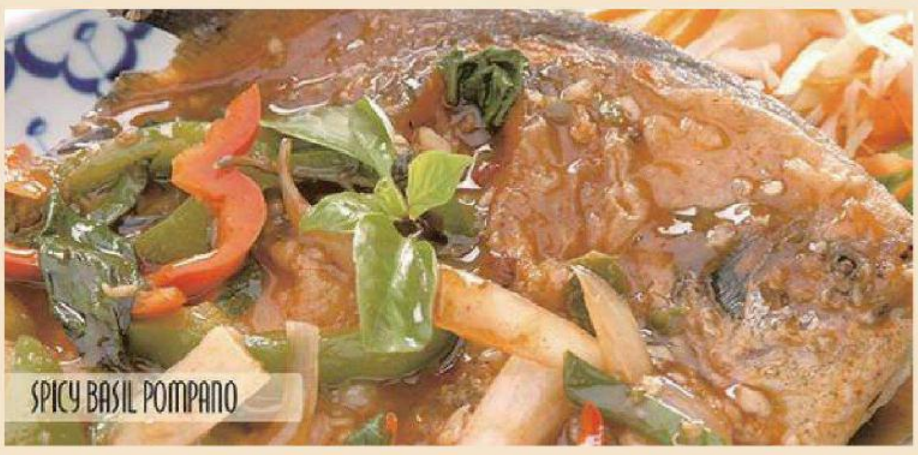

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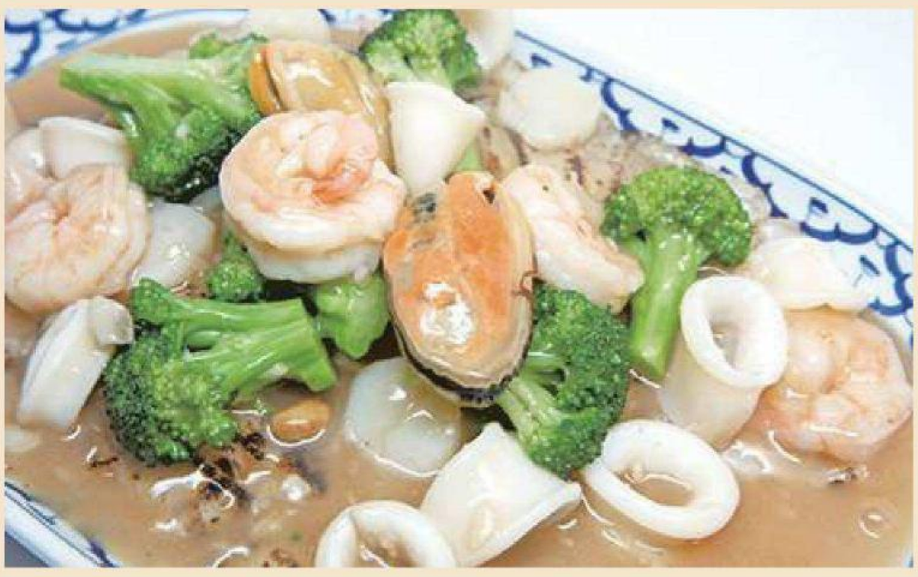

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